

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, July 19, 2012

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A-peal for help

Bell ringers are looking to recruit to carry on tradition

Page 4



Steam ahead

Historic engine at museum reopens after major work

Page 15



Hammering

Heathens pull off another convincing win at home

Page 39



£2.5m to bring 100 homes up to scratch

AROUND 100 empty council homes will be brought back into use in Dudley as part of a £2.5 million investment that will ease the borough's 11-month waiting list for houses.

There are around 120 council-owned houses in the borough standing empty and need extensive work to bring them up to standard.

Council bosses have now announced the authority will fund major repairs so they can house tenants.

The work will be funded with £2.5m saved in the council's housing revenue budget and council bosses hope to revamp as many as possible this year.

Dudley has 23,000 council homes and there are currently 6,687 people on the waiting list for a property. The average waiting time for a home is 11 months.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "More work will be taking place over this issue in the future but at the present time this £2.5m will be used to return these empty houses to use."

"At the moment there are approximately 120 council houses in the borough which are not in use. This will help us to carry out the work needed at these properties so they can be of benefit once again. Bringing these properties back into use will help to ease waiting lists and get people back into homes."

Local ale's a real winner

TWO real ale enthusiasts have sunk another award for their locally-brewed beer.

Nick Pritchard and Andy Kirk, owners of Halesowen-micro-brewery Angel Ales, were awarded after their beer BOB61 was voted best beer by punters at Stour-bridge Beer Festival.

The bitter is one of six made part-time by the two engineers at a former pattern manufacturer's shop turned five-barrel brewery in Furlong Lane.

It marks a second consecutive win for the duo.

BILL FOR JUBILEE SCUPPERS EVENT

by Lee Watton

A POPULAR event attracting hundreds of visitors to Halesowen has been axed this year after cash was ploughed into the borough's Diamond Jubilee and Olympic celebrations instead.

Trade leaders in the town today said they were "deeply disappointed" the annual Halesowen by the Sea event would not be taking place next month as usual. The event, held in the town centre, brings in hundreds of visitors to enjoy activities such as donkey rides, Punch & Judy shows and a large sandpit. Dudley Council bosses said they were reviewing all town centre events but recognised they were an excellent way of boosting visitor numbers. They said Halesowen by the Sea was not taking place this year as "resources have been focused" on the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the Olympic Torch relay in recent months.

New chief in warning to all the jobs

DUDLEY'S new police chief has pledged officers will be "relentless" in their pursuit of criminals with anti-social behaviour, metal thefts and domestic abuse highlighted as priority areas.

Chief Superintendent Stuart Johnson has been appointed commander of the borough's policing unit with responsibility for Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen. He replaces Keith Baldwin who retired after completing 30 years with the force. Mr Johnson had previously served as Mr Baldwin's deputy. He said the main aim was to continue the unit's record in crime reduction and a high standard of service.

Mr Johnson identified priority areas which would bring down crime figures in the borough even further.

He said tackling anti-social behaviour in all parts was vital as was the continuing issue of metal thefts which has plagued the region. Mr Johnson said there would also be a focus on tackling domestic abuse.

"Although the team is performing extremely well in cutting crime rates I believe there is still room for improvement in terms of antisocial behaviour," he said.

"This is something which affects and is of concern to communities and is one of the areas I intend to make a priority."

Mr Johnson said the Black Country as a whole had experienced problems with metal thefts and the Dudley was no exception.

Officials said they had funded a Victorian market in the town in June and would still organise the Christmas lights switch-on as usual.

But chairman of Halesowen Chamber of Trade, Steve Fitzpatrick, said the loss of Halesowen by the Sea would be "a real blow" to the town this year.

"Halesowen by the Sea is something we would not want to lose permanently. It brought in hundreds of visitors and was a real boost to trade during the summer."

Restored

"It was a very popular event among the children. Along with the Victorian Market and the Christmas lights switch-on it is one of the main events in the town."

"Its loss will be felt this year. Hopefully next year it will be restored."

Dudley Council Councillor Tracy Wood said: "We are in the process of reviewing all our town centre events."

"Halesowen by the Sea is not taking place this year as our resources have been focused on the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the Olympic Torch relay in recent months."

"We only have a limited budget in which to stage events. It obviously costs money to stage events such as the jubilee celebrations and the torch relay. Also if staff are employed to help organise or stage the events that too costs money."

"We are certainly not saying the event will not take place next year."

"We know events are a great way of boosting footfall in our town centres and that is why we funded the Halesowen Victorian Market in June and will organise the Christmas lights as usual."

Classic cars cruise in to castle



Janet Emery with her 1960 Morris Minor at the show

VISITORS to Dudley Zoo and Castle were treated to a display of rare and classic cars.

The West Midlands Classic Car club revved up their engines, and took over Dudley Castle for the day.

Car enthusiasts from across the country attending the annual meeting which has been coming to the castle for more than 20 years.

The cars included the likes of a smart E-type Jaguar and the very rare Daimler Dart of which there are only 2500 left in existence.

The motorists had cleaned, polished and preened their cars to the highest standard



Dale Hudson, from Netherton, with his 1980 Ford

ready to be judged in their individual classes and for the all important car of the show award. Around a dozen judges assessed every aspect of the 80 vehicles on show for the competition.

President of the West Midlands Classic Car Club, and organiser of the event Maurice Cole said: "It has been a really good day, and as usual we have had a very good turn out and the weather has held out."

"It is really very popular and we have had people come from as far away as Anglesea to come to the show," he added.

"Everyone is always very competitive and the cars look fantastic."

Hospital looking for more midwives

EXTRA midwives are being recruited at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital to cope with rising birth rates, as plans to expand the maternity unit are revealed.

In February health bosses began restricting bookings from women across the border in Sandwell who live closer to City Hospital in Birmingham.

But the number of women from Dudley having babies delivered at the hospital has continued to rise, peaking at 424 in May. This is above the unit's optimum level of 380 births a month.

A recruitment drive is now under way and five midwives have already been offered places. Open days will be held next month to recruit qualifying students. A business case for expanding the maternity unit so that more births could take place at the site is being drawn up and estimates for the work are being gathered.

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "The trust can confirm the expansion of the maternity unit is being considered. A business case has been put together and is awaiting final estate costs before the case is put before the Board of Directors."

"We are openly recruiting to midwives posts. The final number will depend on whether the expansion of the unit goes ahead."

Beauty spot wins award

THE LEASOWES in Halesowen is one of three beauty spots in Dudley borough to win the national Green Flag Award.

More than 1,400 UK sites received the Green Flag accolade this week.

Judges visiting the Leasowes said they were impressed by the restoration of the historic landscape and the management of the site for wildlife by the wardens and volunteers.

Silver Jubilee Park in Coseley and Netherton Park were also honoured this year.

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NEWS

CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Memory Lane	10
Club News	22
Puzzle Page	29
TV Listings	25-28
Property	30-31
Motoring	32-33
Classified	34-38
Sport	39-40

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Care home dumps mother's things



Mandy Darby with a picture of her mother Olive

A GRIEVING daughter has been left devastated after her late mother's precious belongings were thrown out by staff at the nursing home where she lived.

Wedding photographs and rings, together with other sentimental gifts and clothes, were missing when Mandy Darby arrived to pick them up following her mother Olive's death.

Only two small bags of her clothes were left for the 45-year-old to collect from Nethercrest Care Home, in Nether-

ton, Dudley. Mimosa Healthcare, which runs the nursing home, has now apologised to Olive's family.

Olive, 81, died on June 5 but her daughter was too upset to collect her belongings until after the funeral held on July 5. "They told me the other bags had been thrown away. I couldn't believe they had been thrown away without my consent," said Mandy, of Gorse Road, Wrens Nest, Dudley.

Olive lived around the Wrens Nest

estate all her life with her husband Ray. He died, aged 69, about 18 years ago and his wife went to stay with her daughter before moving into The Keepings care home, off Priory Road.

"The home gave her lovely care but I'm absolutely disgusted by the way this turned out," said Mandy.

Tim Rudman, spokesman for Mimosa Healthcare, said: "We are deeply saddened this error has occurred. All internal procedures have been reviewed."

Old and new merged on archive hoardings

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS showing Black Country streets in days gone by have added a touch of nostalgia to building site hoardings around the site of a £6million archives centre.

The images, displayed at the project base in Tipton Road, Dudley, have been merged with shots showing how the same scenes look now. Among the pictures is one of five

women carrying gas masks on their backs as they walk side by side along the town's Priory Street in 1940.

A scene of Brierley Hill High Street shows 1930s cars travelling along the same road as a modern bus.

The hoardings have been installed as work continues on the centre, which is being built on the site of the old Brierley Crystal base and is expected to open next summer.

Artist's impressions showing how the base will look when it is completed have also gone on display.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "It's great that construction work has begun on the borough's new archives and local history centre."

Encouraged

"We look forward to the service moving into the new centre."

"Anyone passing by the site is encouraged to take a look at the hoardings and view the artist's impressions of the centre, as well as the fascinating past and present photographs."

Contractor G F Tomlinson has been on site since April carrying out preparation work and laying the foundations.

The present archives centre will relocate from Coseley.

The new building will have IT and public Wi-Fi services, education and conference rooms, a hi-tech conservation studio, a rare books library and research area, a well-equipped search room and free car parking.



Women with gas masks in Priory Street, Dudley, in 1940



Peckingham Street, Halesowen, in 1904 and in the present day



Brierley Hill High Street in the 1930s merged with 2012

Shooting nightclub may lose its licence

A NIGHTCLUB in Dudley where a man was shot could face closure after police revealed they would be asking for its licence to be reviewed.

The victim, a 28-year-old man, was shot at Hustlers Nightclub, King Street, last month.

West Midlands Police said officers would be seeking a review of the premises licence for the venue.

The request will go before councillors sitting on Dudley Council's licensing committee later this month.

Revoking the licence is among sanctions that can be imposed on the owners.

Police spokeswoman Jo Hunt said: "The local neighbourhood team is looking to review the licence, it is in the early stages."

Hustlers was closed for a 24-hour period following the shooting on June 23 at around 3.48am. The victim was shot in the arm.

A 22-year-old man arrested in West Bromwich in connection with the shooting is on bail.

Police issued a fresh appeal for people who were in the nightclub and who may have any information to come forward.

Birds have flown site

WORK has finally started on a multi-million pound housing development on former industrial land in Dudley after nesting lapwings caused a delay.

The construction of more than 300 homes has got under way in Pensnett.

The scheme was delayed for over a month as developers had to wait for young birds to leave nests before they could start work.

Landowners London & Cambridge Properties is working with Taylor Wimpey West Midlands on the scheme. Diggers have now moved in to start groundwork.

Car sales refused

A proposal to sell cars on the site of a petrol station and car wash in Dudley has been thrown out.

Dudley Council has refused an application by the Texaco garage, Himley Road, Lower Gornal, for the sale of vehicles. There were fears on green belt and road safety.

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Crime's a washout say police

WET WEATHER helped cut the number of crimes reported in Stourbridge and Halesowen last month to a record low, claim police.

Officers said the washout helped to reduce the number of assaults, burglaries and other incidents during the month.

In Halesowen there were 153 reported crimes, compared with 181 last year and 194 in 2010.

In Stourbridge, there were 262 reported crimes, compared with 290 in 2011 and 441 in 2010.

The new inspector for the Stourbridge and Halesowen sector, Dez Lambert, said the poor weather had played a major part in the numbers.

He said: "While I would say the reduction is down to our officers' work and help to the community, I can't deny the weather has been a factor. We find during wet months such as January that people are less likely to be out and about causing trouble in neighbourhoods. We like the rain here."

Insp Lambert said crime had reduced dramatically over the past 10 years. He put the drop down to the police's working with partner agencies and the force's ever-changing structure.

● Bridges – page 9

Outdoor life to aid young

OUTDOOR activities for 15 to 17-year-olds are taking place across Worcestershire.

The National Citizen Service is an opportunity for young people to try outdoor activities, socialise and make a difference within their local communities.

The programme, which begins on July 23, lasts six weeks. It includes an adventure week in Wales, an enterprise week at a local hotel and social action projects in the community.

Engage4Life, the not-for-profit company running the National Citizen Service.

For more information, visit www.engage4life.co.uk or call 08456 804348.

Plans approved

PLANS to build a house in Stourbridge have been given the go-ahead.

Emma Singh had applied for permission to construct a two-bedroom end of terrace property in Cobden Street. The plans were submitted to Dudley Council and planners have approved them.

The new Express & Star desktop service is proving to be a real page-turner for readers



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Express & Star editor Adrian Faber said: "The new page-turning desktop service is the latest development in the Express & Star's proud tradition of embracing new technology. Our team is committed to producing the best newspapers possible, which readers will enjoy whether it is in the printed version or online."

Head of digital William Beavis said the new service was "the perfect way to digest

the Express & Star's excellent content". He said: "It replicates the page-turning experience which so many readers like, allowing readers to get the real news via their desktop."

The new service comes after the Express & Star's app for iPad and iPhone users was launched in January.

Hundreds of readers have taken out subscriptions, with many leaving positive comments on iTunes and the Appstore.

The new desktop service requires a separate subscription to the app. Whether it is via the app or the desktop, users pay £3.99 per month or £1.49 per week to subscribe. If you only want a single edition, a new feature allows you to pay 69p for a one-off purchase. App users can take advantage of a free seven-day trial before they commit. Desktop customers can view a sample edition before they sign up.

Brick industry is finding it harder to build for future

There were once 25 brick works in Dudley. Soon there will be only one. Its boss ALEX PATRICK-SMITH explains why the tradition is disappearing

Stourbridge Brick Works will close in August which means Dreadnought Tiles and Ketley Brick, will be the last remaining volume brick or tile works in the Dudley borough.

Times are difficult in the heavy clay industry. There are many reasons for this. The most obvious is the low levels of demand for building materials across the country.

But there is also the cumulative burden of energy taxes, which disproportionately affect energy intensive businesses, the volatility in wholesale energy prices and insufficient local support for heavy industry in some quarters.

Housing construction levels are running at half the levels seen at their peak in 2007, while the demand for housing is still projected by the Government to be at 220,000 units per year across the country, leaving a large shortfall and reducing affordability. The main brake on house building is the availability of affordable mortgage finance.

Renewable

Heavy industry has borne a large part of the burden to reduce carbon emissions. Carbon taxes are applied to electricity to subsidise renewable energy sources and to gas in the form of carbon allowance, which reduces every year. Carbon credits need to be bought to supplement shortfalls.

For brick and tile-makers there is no alternative to firing products with gas. The effect of these carbon taxes in a world where they are not applied universally is simple – production and jobs are being lost at home and relocated overseas.

That means products that were once made on our doorstep are now being imported. Ironically, that means extra carbon emissions because of the fuel needed to transport them from abroad.

A much better way forward would be to tax carbon consumption rather than emission, as this would then cover all relevant products used in this country rather than those made in this country. By 2020 it is projected that more than half the cost of energy for manufacturing will be made up of taxes.

In Dudley, which at one point had 25 brick works, we have witnessed a pattern of closures. The latest is the recent announcement of the closure of the Ibstock Stourbridge Works in August, owned by the Irish multinational CRH.



Surviving – managing director Alex Patrick-Smith by one of the brick kilns at Ketley Bricks Dreadnought Works, in Dreadnought Road, Pensnett

In 2009 the Baggeridge Sedgley Works closed following a takeover by the Austrian company Wienerberger. Himley, again owned by Ibstock, closed around 10 years ago.

In all three cases production at these works is being fulfilled by factories outside the borough. Contrast this with our family business operating on a single site in Pensnett, where all the company's assets have been committed to the borough since 1805, when production first started on the same site.

Overseas

We have invested heavily over the past five years to develop a range of new brick and tile products and developed overseas markets, which has enabled us to maintain our levels of employment while the brick industry has dwindled around us. It is not an option for us to relocate elsewhere.

Our loyal workforce lives locally. Our capital is committed to this site and our quarry where we source our clay is just down the road. We have no choice but to make the business work where it is.

The Ketley Quarry near Kingswinford, which has been the subject of local protests recently, predates all the houses around it. Many restrictions have been imposed on the operation of the

site, which has significantly increased the cost of operating the quarry. Without the quarry and the type of clay found in this area our business has no future. Undoubtedly compromise is required on all sides because we can't change the reality of the situation. We have received supportive comments recently by Labour and Green party councillors.

However, we have been really struck by the lack of vocal public support by our local Conservative councillors for a business that has helped shape the area over the last 200 years.

Heavy industry needs the active public support of local politicians. Without this, a mindset can become established that sees heavy industry as a nuisance, leading to planning permissions becoming harder to obtain in the face of local opposition driven by self interest. Every brick works that closes in the Black Country results in production shifting elsewhere, with the loss of jobs and the multiplier effect for the rest of the local economy.

A bias toward local sourcing would be in everybody's interest and establishing a culture that supports local manufacturers is key. Local support for industry has never been more important. Without it the Black Country's proud industrial heritage will continue to be in decline.

NEWS in brief

Town roadshow for retirement

A "RETIREMENT" roadshow is coming to Kidderminster to help older people tackle issues of concern.

The event, organised by The National Carline, is aimed at those who have retired or are close to it.

It will be held at Kidderminster Town Hall on July 21 from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

Event organiser Barbara Davies said: "It aims to provide experts who are able to give people the answers." The National Carline has brought together exhibitors.

Historic pool at park is restored

A POOL at grade I listed park The Leasowes, Halesowen has been restored.

The Friends of The Leasowes group received £5,500 from the Big Lottery Fund Awards For All to restore the pool to make it more attractive to wildlife.

The heart-shaped pool is part of the landscaping at the site, off Mucklow Hill, designed by 18th century poet William Shenstone.

It had become silted up and the council has now dredged it and repaired the leaks.

Black Beauty in open air drama

AN OPEN-AIR production of Black Beauty will be performed at Hagley Hall on August 16 as part of a national tour of 27 venues.

It is produced by award-winning BBC playwright Susannah Daley and features costumes designed by Hayley Neil, who worked on the King's Speech. The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at www.blackbeauty.live.com or 0844 8717604.

Complaints over Pcsos responses

PCSOS in the West Midlands were subject to 11 complaints from the public for failing to respond satisfactory to incidents over the past two years.

Out of those complaints, police bosses took action once after finding the force had a case to answer. Figures are from April 1 2010 to March 31 this year.

Conversion plan

A SCHEME to convert a semi-detached house in Nagersfield Road, Brierley Hill, into two flats has been approved by Dudley Council's planning committee.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A READER asks: "What's happened to that long hot summer you promised us?" The answer, according to the latest scientific data and the seaweed hanging outside Chateau Rhodes, is that there will indeed be a long hot summer. But not until December.

□□□□□□□□

HOW to deal with telephone cold callers. Among a flurry of readers' suggestions, I love this one: "When they ring, just tell them you are a relative of the person they want and you live in a big house and they are at the bottom of the garden. Every so often, just shout that they are on their way." This reader says his personal record for keeping them hanging on the phone is eight minutes.

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THE great thing about science is that discoveries which cost billions very quickly become affordable to Joe Public. I am pleased to report that Higgs boson particles are now a quid each at Poundland. Don't be embarrassed to ask.

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BY NOW, we are used to Easter eggs appearing in the shops before Christmas and Christmas cards appearing before Easter. Even so, a reader admits she was surprised to see her local W H Smiths running a "Back to school" promotion before the schools have even broken up.

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A READER describes the bizarre experience of watching Twenty-Two (BBC2), the excellent comedy on the London Olympics bureaucracy, followed by Newsnight. The first was satire, the second real life. Yet the language was the same. Going forward, bilaterally, that is.

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STRANGE names for paint colours. A friend is redecorating her living room in Elephant's Breath.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Bell ringers hoping to a-peal to new recruits

FOR more than 300 years parishioners have sent the evocative sound of church bells echoing across a Black Country town.

Although the current crop of volunteers show no signs of slowing down, they are now looking for new recruits to help keep up the tradition for generations to come. The team of bell ringers at St John the Baptist Church, Halesowen, have appeared on BBC2 documentary series The Great British - People's History in recent weeks.

Recently, the church's doors were opened to anyone interested in taking up the practice and joining the lively social group.

Ten people were taught new skills and the ringers hope they will be seen again at future sessions.

Among them were Ian Jeavons, aged 67, of Hasbury, Halesowen, who said he was inspired to take part after hearing the bells from his garden.

The former wage office manager at British Steel said: "It's not as easy as it looks but I have really enjoyed it. On a clear evening the bells are a beautiful sound."

"I have lived in Halesowen all my life but I have never done anything like this before."

About 16 bell ringers gather in the church's tower every Tuesday night to practice. They herald the start of the Sunday morning service

by Adam Burling

each week, as well as playing at weddings and funerals. They have won regional contests and are the reigning Worcestershire and District champions.

The peals they create are known as English Change Ringing. The lightest treble bell rings first followed by the others in quick succession until the heaviest tenor bell, which weighs 0.8 tonnes, makes a sound.

The cycle is then repeated, which is called ringing the rounds.

Volunteers

The church is now looking to the future by taking part in a simultaneous national ringing of bells to mark the start of the Olympics on July 27 at 8am. It can take up to a year for someone to become skilled enough to take part in events and learn to follow the complex charts and instructions.

The group meets every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the church, in High Street. For more information call the bell ringing master Michael Brown on 0121 602 4173.



Guest Stephen Woods, Master Michael Brown and ringer Stewart Brydges with members and friends

Vow over problems with cars speeding

COUNCIL chiefs have vowed to look at taking action to tackle speeding motorists at an accident hotspot after a car crashed into a front garden.

But they insist they have already managed to reduce the number of crashes in Brook Street, Woodsetton - despite residents claiming the problem is worse than ever.

It was revealed last Tuesday how a man was thrown from the sunroof of a Peugeot 406 as it hurtled into Joyce Hampton's front garden.

Dramatic CCTV footage showed the passenger walking away unhurt.

Miss Hampton's brother Howard captured the footage on cameras outside his house next door.

However, Councillor Judy Foster, insisted the number of crashes had been reduced since warning signs were installed.

● Luck - page 6

£800 for causes

MORE than £800 has been raised for three causes by Sainsbury's Stourbridge.

The Amblecote Store held an exercise bike challenge for Carers UK on June 22 which raised £165. A cake sale raised £161 for Insight for Carers, Brierley Hill. The 6th Stourbridge Guides and Brownies held a bag pack raising £501.01.

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£1.3m will overhaul bus fleet

NATIONAL Express is spending £1.3 million on an overhaul of its West Midlands bus fleet, the largest public transport refurbishment project ever in the UK.

The business, which operates from Birmingham, has already begun the project and when complete the fleet will have vehicles with new modern interiors and cleaner engines which are 20 per cent more efficient.

The work will extend the life of the buses by at least a decade.

Bosses say customers will enjoy cleaner, more comfortable journeys as a result.

Peter Coates, managing director of National Express UK Bus Division, said they were also continuing to invest in new vehicles.

Last year 220 new vehicles including 18 green hybrid buses were added.

The fuel savings delivered by the refit alone will enable the company to cover the cost of the refurbishment project within three years.

The more fuel efficient buses will improve air quality in Birmingham, which is a key objective for both Birmingham City Council and transport authority Centro.

Decision put off

COUNCILLORS have deferred making a decision on whether to grant planning permission for an out-building in Brierley Hill.

Dudley Council planners will now visit the site in Stourvalley Close. A decision on the plans will be made next month.

Leaf it to the experts when stripping an ivy-clad house

A BLANKET of ivy left to creep over an eyesore house is being removed by its new owner, to the delight of neighbours sick of the sight of it. Neighbour Molly Boland contacted her local council just over a year ago, and asked them to encourage the owner of Old Hill House, Cradley Heath, to sell the property.

The 78-year-old said: "I thought I would phone them to see if they could do something about it."

"It took a while but I was delighted when they finally put it up for auction."

Mrs Boland said in the 10 years it had stood empty ivy had slowly crept up the walls covering windows, walls and the roof.

"The garden had become wild, and the grass had grown to over five feet."

She said: "It was just horrible, and a real eyesore." The house was auctioned and sold for £116,000.

"The new owner, who did not want to be named said he plans to renovate the house and turn it back into a family home. He has cleared out the inside and employed specialist company Shirley Ivy Stripping, from Solihull to remove the foliage."

Company boss David Sidwell said: "This is the biggest job we have ever done, and will take around a week to complete."

"We will pull off all the ivy from the walls, and they will have to work on the roof. That will be more difficult because I should think it will have gone under the tiles."

Mr Sidwell will then use his "secret method" of removing all the tendrils from the wall, and cleaning the bricks.

Until this is done, the owner will not know the extent of any brick work damage.

Edith Robinson, aged 71, who has lived in Sherbourne Road for 34 years said she remembered the house as once a busy family home. She said: "It was a lovely house, and I remember the owner doing it up. But unfortunately her health deterio-

rated and she had to move out, that's when it was just left."

"It became horrible, and it's at the entrance to the road so you can't miss it. This is such a friendly road so everyone has been talking about it."

Ann Shaw, aged 74, who has lives on the road with her husband said: "I am delighted that it is finally going to be worked on, and sorted. It will just make a real difference to the road."

Mother-of-two Laura Hays, aged 29, said: "I am just looking forward to see the work unfold, and see it being transformed."

Trimming

"It will make such a difference."

Mother-of-one Brigid Duffy, a solicitor who has lived opposite for 15 years, said the former owner had previously kept a rein on the plant.

She said: "But when she left it got out of control because no-one was trimming it back. Then it just grew and grew and grew. It got to the point where you couldn't actually see the house any more."

"Every time we had visitors they would say my God what's that across the road. These workmen cutting it down are my heroes."

Retired civil servant Helen Key, 55, who lives next door, added: "If you looked into the street from a distance, it looked like there was a house, then a big tree, then my house."



Workers begin the mammoth task of removing the ivy

NEWS in brief

Skateboarding skills on offer

A VILLAGE is offering youngsters a chance to learn skateboarding skills.

Kinver Action Group has enlisted Rubicon Skateboard School to showcase its skills on July 21. From 10am the lesson will be held at Wheels Park off Legion Drive.

It is the latest in a series of skating events planned at the park this year.

A bike track was built on the playing fields in 2009, with the skatepark a year later - thanks to grants including the Lottery Play Budget Fund.

Call 07801929034.

Summer music across borough

SUMMER concerts are taking place at parks across Dudley borough.

Paul Drakeley and the Allstars Band will perform at Himley Hall on July 22 and August 5. Himley Hall's Oak Tea Room will also be open for tea and cakes.

Families in Stevens Park in Quarry Bank will be able to enjoy the sounds of Thorns Community Music Group on August 12.

All the concerts run from 2.30pm until 5pm.

Morrisons will change hours

SUPERMARKET bosses have been given the go ahead to extend delivery hours at Morrisons in Kingswinford. The store, in Stallings Lane, can now accept deliveries between 7am and 8pm Monday to Saturday.

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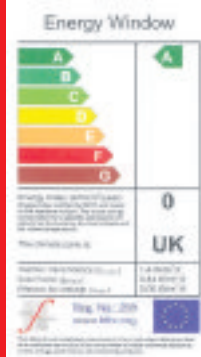
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NEWS

Dan's luck went through the roof after bingo date

A MAN who was flung through the sunroof of a car as it hurtled into a garden in Dudley has spoken of the "surreal" crash.

Double-glazing salesman Dan Page, aged 31, said he could not believe he was still walking after the crash.

He was flipped out of the car as his old school friend Kylee Weston, aged 30, lost control of her Peugeot 406 as she drove the two of them home after a night at the bingo.

"It was just a freak of physics that I came out of the top and survived," said Mr Page, of Sedgley.

The pair had recently met up again after 10 years and went out for an evening in Coseley. But on the way home at about 10.30pm, their date was cut short when Ms Weston took a corner too sharply and rolled her car through a garden wall in Brook Street, Woodsetton - sending Mr Page flying out of the sunroof.

The incredible crash was captured on CCTV showing Mr Page being catapulted 6ft into the air and landing face down - before, amazingly, walking back to the car. Both escaped with just minor cuts and bruises.

Mr Page said: "It's all a surreal blur. The sunroof wasn't even open at the time, it must have smashed on the first roll."

"My luck had not been in for most of the night at the bingo hall - but it certainly was at the end of the night. I can't believe I'm still walking."

Mother-of-two Ms Weston added: "When I watched the footage back I just burst into tears. I was inches away of rolling the car on top of Dan."



Dan Page with friend Kylee Weston in Sedgley



Dan is flung through the sunroof of the car

Delight at grass cutting

RESIDENTS are delighted after a grass verge left overgrown for more than a year has now cut. People living near the verge, off Coldstream Drive, Wordsley, had organised their own cutting when Dudley Council stopped it on all steep banks. But after complaints the council changed its policy.

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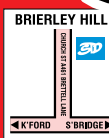
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LETTERS

Nightmare of hospital parking

ON THE day it was reported about parking problems at Dudley's Russell's Hall Hospital I was unfortunate enough to have to visit an aging relative who is a patient there.

In mid-afternoon - not rush-hour - there was almost grid lock around the traffic island at the hospital's entrance stretching down to Pensnett centre, back to Holy Hall island and up to Holly Hall Church junction.

The cause was vehicles trying to access the hospital car park, which was virtually full, backing up to and blocking the main road.

I sympathise with residents but

where are employees whom the hospital needs and patients it is there to serve to park their cars?

What I find disgraceful is that exit barriers on the car park have been raised on several occasions now enabling cars to drive straight through.

This means that anyone checking barriers first need not pay.

Those who have paid in good faith inside the building find they have lost possibly a whole day's parking fee unnecessarily.

I suggest all visitors who have paid this diabolical tax on illness, whilst others have not, write to the car park

administrators in the strongest terms requesting their money back.

Further, if the administrators decide to raise barriers, they should set all ticket machines inside the building to state that, on inserting the ticket, a driver has paid. This will stop the taking of money from some people, who have enough to concern them, by what amounts to false pretences.

It seems that, in spite of constructing a multi-storey car park, this is a problem that will not go away.

DAVID G ATKINSON
Maidensbridge Road
Kingswinford

Questions over local people and torch runs

THIRTEEN of us went up to the Birmingham New Road to see the Olympic Torch come through, and who was carrying it, someone from Walsall.

In Dudley only one of the 11 torchbearers actually come from the borough.

People seem to have been sent all over the place.

An injured soldier from Tipton was sent to Solihull. I question why a Big Brother woman, Will.i.am, The Wanted were all given the chance to carry the torch.

Cliff Richard carried it in Birmingham for his charity work which is very commendable, but he is certainly not a Brummie.

It was a lovely experience, but I do question why it was not handled better as regards areas.

MRS MAUREEN BANKS
Farnedale Close
Brierley Hill

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Players and game in need of change

ROY HODGSON did as good a job as possible with the England football team.

The question now is can he develop further. At last the TV pundits got the message that what is needed is an ability to string passes together.

They didn't mention though that in order to do this, players off the ball need to be running into positions so that passes can be made easily. The England players weren't doing this; instead they tended to be standing, waiting to see what the player with the ball was intending to try to do.

The huge problem that Hodgson faces is that our players are simply not used to this type of football.

They have spent their careers tearing around the pitch, with lots of physical contact, and the emphasis on stopping opponents building up attacking moves rather than developing their own. Is it any wonder that the England players have difficulty changing their style of play?

The whole emphasis of professional football in the Premiership has to change. The big question is, 'will club supporters be willing to let this happen'.

GORDON BETTELEY,
Sheridan Gardens, Sedgley

Spaniards play like England used to

After watching the Euro football matches, and listening to all the ex-footballers, giving their verdicts on the game, highlighted by the final with Spain and Italy, they seem to be in "awe" of the Spanish team.

They are all part and parcel of the demise of English football.

The Spaniards play "touch and move" football, something that was lost to tactics etc from the late 50s and 60s of English football, and hence the poor showing of our sides, they stand and "ball watch".

Until our coaching gets back to pass and move football we are going nowhere.

The Spanish will carry on at keeping it simple, and looking like an English football team used to!

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NEWS

Scrap metal merchant's vehicles taken off road

A SCRAP metal dealership in Dudley has been ordered to temporarily downsize its operations after it was found using vehicles unfit for the road.

R Davies Metals and Sons Ltd, Smithy Lane, Pensnett, was also found to be using drivers who were not taking the required breaks a traffic commissioner hearing heard.

Deputy traffic commissioner Tony Seculer described the company failings as significant and serious and ordered the firm to downsize from seven vehicles to five for one month.

He also laid down conditions on the company's licence which will mean it must report regularly to the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

The decision comes a month after driver Mark Shore, 42, died in an industrial accident at the firm's recycling yard. The incident, which is unrelated to the hearing, is being investigated by The Health and Safety Executive.

Speaking at the hearing last week, company senior director Renney Davies admitted failing to adequately check on the maintenance of vehicles, as well as the training of staff. He said: "I accept that I took my eye off the ball."

The hearing first heard evidence from Vehicle and Operator Services Agency vehicle examiner Neil Lloyd-Bowen.

He said during an unannounced visit to the company's yard in Smithy Lane on December 17, he found two out of five vehicles inspected with defects.

Challenge to read books

CHILDREN are being challenged to read more books at libraries in Dudley borough during the summer.

Youngsters aged four to 12 are being challenged to read six books as part of the annual summer reading challenge. The 2012 event theme is Story Lab, a laboratory where children can read, share and create.

Award day for youngsters



Front, pre-school leader Margaret Rogers with Lacie Cox, four, with other children with crews from Kinver fire station, who visited for the end-of-year open day

AWARDS have been handed out to youngsters at a pre-school near Stourbridge to mark their achievements during the year.

They were presented during an open day at Peter Pan Pre-School in Stourton Village Hall since 1969.

Staff at the school, who are all volunteers, were on hand to welcome visitors. They had arranged for crews

from Kinver fire station to visit the school with their engine.

School leader Margaret Rogers, aged 65, who marked her 41st year at the centre, said: "It is wonderful time when we celebrate children's achievements at each of the school years but also a sad time, in some respect, as families who have been part of our lives for three years move on."



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NEWS

Council sets out agenda

ATTRACTING new businesses, tackling crime and caring for the elderly are among the priorities outlined by Dudley Council in its plans for the coming years.

At a full meeting of the authority on Monday, members agreed the priority areas as part of a refresh of its Council Plan.

A portfolio of key objectives will now be developed. The areas are, ensuring every child has the best start in life, attracting new industries to provide jobs while supporting existing firms, and tackling crime.

Carpet museum is on target to open in October

A PROJECT to convert a carpet mill into a museum is nearing completion.

Kidderminster Carpet Museum is taking shape at the former Stourvale Mill in Green Street.

Bosses from the museum trust said the attraction would open on October 20. Following the conversion work, exhibits are now being moved into the site.

The trust has moved its extensive archive from the nearby MCF Complex in New Road, and is setting it up in the museum.

The archive contains pictures, documents and equipment from the carpet-making factories which once employed thousands in the town.

Trust officials said a Jacquard Wilton and

Axminster loom, which will form one of the centrepiece exhibits, had also now arrived at the site. Experts are installing the carpet-making machinery.

Trust spokesman Charles Talbot said: "The conversion work has now been finished so we are now focusing on moving in the exhibits and transferring the archive."

"Understandably this work will take some time to complete."

"We are still on course for completion by October and have now set a date when we plan to open."

"It is a very exciting time for the project."

The mill building dates back to 1855 and it is hoped the attraction will rival Dudley's Black Country Living Museum.

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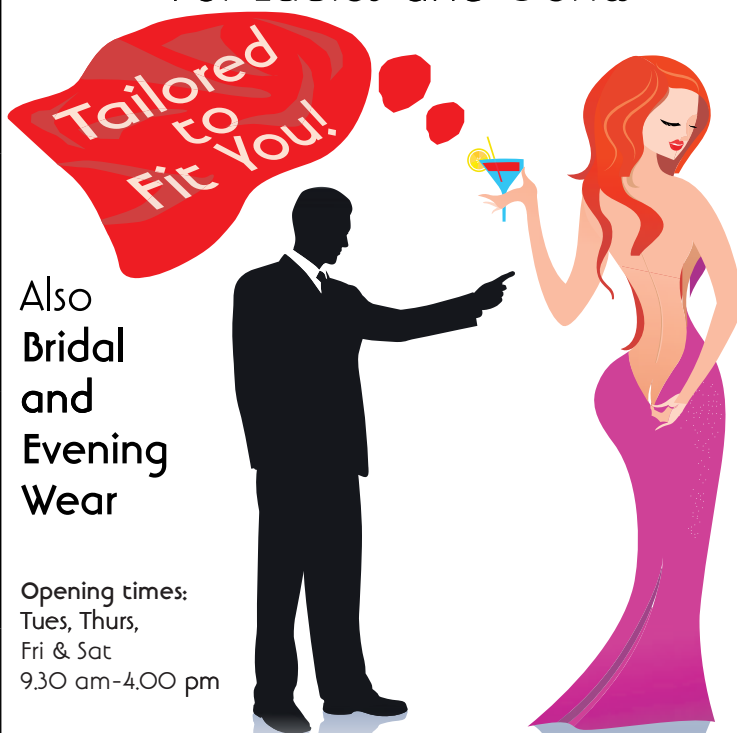
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The Brown Jug Inn, Willenhall, early 1900s



Dr Joseph Tonks, centre, family and friends 1885



Workers at their benches at the Josiah Parkes & Sons Lock Factory in Willenhall, about 1928-30

The meadows that became 'Humpshire'

WILLENHALL, between Walsall and Wolverhampton, was originally called 'Willen-halch', Anglo-Saxon for 'the meadowland of Willan'.

First mentioned in the 700s, when King Ethelbald of Mercia signed a treaty there, William the Conqueror's Domesday Book (1086) records it as 'Willenhala'.

In the Middle Ages, Willenhall was a small agricultural village with a chapel within the parish of Wolverhampton. But from 1840, Willenhall had its own parish church, St Giles, and the present day building dates from 1867.

Willenhall's population grew to around 300 by 1666, but in the 1700s it expanded dramatically with the Industrial Revolution. The new industrial town centred around Market Place and Stafford Street, comprising many tiny streets crammed with houses, workshops and pubs.

A thriving mining community grew up around Lane Head and Sandbeds, and Portobello became known for brickmak-

by Stuart Williams

ing. Coal mining was important in the Willenhall area early on but declined after the 1800s when the mines became flooded following a strike.

Willenhall became world-famous as a centre for lock making, which in Elizabethan times had begun developing in Willenhall, Wolverhampton and Bilston, and by the mid-1800s this trade was mainly centred in Willenhall.

Workshops

In 1855 there were 340 local lock makers, working entirely by hand, mostly in small workshops.

Young apprentice lock filers worked bent over, developing hump backs, which gave Willenhall the nickname of 'Humpshire'. Noted Willenhall lockmakers included Yale & Towne, Josiah Parkes & Sons and John Harper & Co.

In 1849 poor housing and sanitation led to a cholera epidemic; 292 people died, shocking the town into improving conditions, and in 1854 Willenhall Local Board

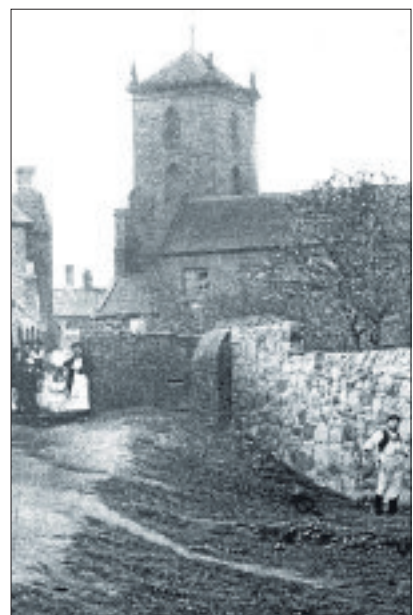
of Health, forerunner of Willenhall Urban District Council (1894), was formed.

Reflecting local civic pride, several municipal buildings were erected, including the Town Hall and Library in Clemson Street in 1866, and in 1922 a Memorial Park was opened, honouring those killed in the Great War.

Willenhall's best-known monument is however its ornate and imposing Memorial Clock in Market Place, commemorating Dr Tonks, a highly respected and revered Victorian physician.

Willenhall became part of Walsall borough in 1966, but remains independent-minded with a strong identity and a great sense of heritage.

● Prints of pictures in this feature and thousands more are available to purchase by special order from Walsall Local History Centre. For local and family history, drop into the centre in Essex Street, part of Walsall Council. Tel: 01922 721305. For more information online see www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre



The old St Giles Church, Willenhall, pictured mid 19th Century before the current church was built

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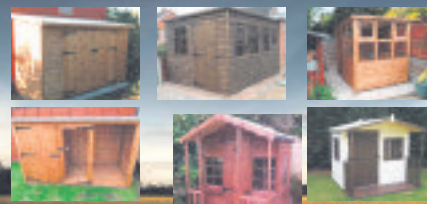
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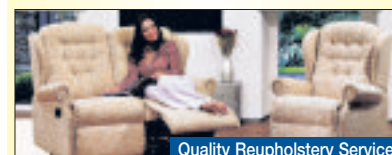
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NEWS

Groups can get share of funds

COMMUNITY groups in Dudley can apply for a share of £21,000 for local projects as the next round of a funding scheme is launched.

Groups in Brockmoor and Pensnett can submit applications to the Community First programme by September 21.

It comes after groups applied for £14,000 of funding in the first round in recent months.

Chairman of the panel Councillor Judy Foster said: "In the first round, we saw some excellent applications demonstrating the commitment that many groups and organisations within and beyond the ward boundaries have to improve the lives of people in Brockmoor and Pensnett. We look forward to seeing many more."

To apply, visit www.brockmoorandpensnettcfpanel.org or g.ukoremailbrockmoorandpensnettward.dudley@hotmail.co.uk.

Fame is calling for young theatre group



Front, Emily Porch, Holly Bagnall, Laura Blakeway and Alex Loyd, with back, Mike Astley, Rachel Gresswell and Connor Robinson, prepare for Fame

Leg warmers will be making a comeback when youngsters from Dudley bring Eighties classic Fame back to life.

Brierley Hill Musical Theatre's youth group will perform the popular musical at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on July 20 and 21.

Shows will start at 7.30pm with a matinee performance at 2.30pm on July 21.

More than 30 members of the group will take part in the production. The musical closely follows the plot of the 1980 film where a group of youngsters gather to study at New York City's High School of Performing Arts.

Group spokeswoman Natalie Baggott said: "It is a very exciting production and all of the youngsters have been working very hard over the past few months."

Summer walks around hall site

A SERIES of summer walks are being held around a Dudley hall and its grounds.

Dudley Council has organised the free strolls at Himley Hall and Park on July 22 and August 5, from 11am.

Visitors can tour the woodland and features of the park created by one of England's greatest landscapers, Lancelot "Capability" Brown in the late 18th century. Features include the great lake with its beautiful vistas seen from the terrace of Himley Hall by the Earls of Dudley and many of their famous visitors.

The walks are led by the former senior warden at Himley Alan Peace who will share his vast knowledge on the area and its history.

Dudley Council Councillor Tracy Wood said: "We're lucky to have such a stunning building and grounds on our doorstep."

Joining the walk is free of charge but places are limited so pre-booking is essential. AD Concert Band will be performing from 2.30-5pm on both days. To book a free guided walk or for further information contact Himley Hall and Park on 01354 817817.

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NEWS

Family's devastation over death

THE FATHER of pub landlord David Golding who died after being hit by a car paid tribute to his "wonderful" son who he described said was one of a kind.

The 31-year-old who ran The Old Peacock Inn, in Horsefair, Kidderminster, was alone when he was struck by a car on the A456, in Bewdley, after leaving a wedding reception at Whar-ton Park Golf Club on Saturday night.

The avid Wolves fan lived in St George's Terrace, Kidderminster, with his partner Claire Freeman, aged 29,

and their son eight-year-old, Jay. His father Mel, aged 62, who lives in a flat at the pub, said: "He was everything a father wants his son to be, he was wonderful. He was an extrovert character, he could be loud, shy, care-free, hard-working. Whatever mood he was in, everyone loved him."

"We're all devastated he has gone, he leaves a massive gap in the family, and community, and it will take along time for us to all get over what has happened."

Mr Golding was born and raised in

Kidderminster. He attended King Charles School in the town before leaving to help his father at the pub. His father said: "Everybody in the town knew him, he was so well-liked and had many, many friends."

"Since his death I have been overwhelmed by the support from the community."

"We are all so shocked by his death," Mr Golding's mother, Julie Astrid Golding, aged 52, and his brother Dean and sister Debbie have also been left devastated.

School is planning to build allotment as part of project

A NEW community allotment project is planned for a Black Country school as part of a £100,000 project that will create two new jobs.

Rowley Hall Primary School, Rowley Regis wants to set up the scheme after winning a Lottery grant. A planning application outlining the proposals has now been submitted

Proposals over sugar site handed green light

PLANS for a major regeneration project in Kidderminster which will include up to 250 new homes, shops and business premises have been approved.

The outline proposal for the site of the former British Sugar factory will eventually create 400 jobs. Wyre Forest District Council's planning committee unanimously backed the plan.

The proposal, put forward by the St Francis Group, is for the new homes, a hotel, railway station, business units, restaurant and care home on the Stourport Road site.

It would replace disused land last used for industrial purposes in 2002.

The scheme has already had support from the government, which has allocated £2.5million toward a link road at the 67-acre site.

Councillor Marcus Hart, who welcomed the plan, said: "Residents have been asking for a long time what we are going to do about this site, well this could be the answer."

"This is at the heart of our town's regeneration. There are things in the application which are not quite perfect, but overall I am delighted to support it."

Support was given from every councillor, although there was some concern about the number of affordable homes proposed.

to Sandwell Council and borough planners will make a decision at a later date.

School horticulturalist Mrs Anne Bartlett, who is behind the proposals, said it took almost three years to secure funding for the project, which has come from the Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities programme.

The £102,000 grant, which is being delivered over four years, will be spent on the eco project in a 382 square feet disused area of the Windsor Road site's school field.

Wildlife

It will include poly tunnels as well as a portable cabin and compost toilets to encourage pupils to learn more about growing their own goods and the wildlife around them.

Two new part-time positions will be created if the project is backed by planning chiefs.

Mrs Bartlett said: "It is a community allotment project and wildlife area. There will be short courses for people to come and join in. We want schools to be able to come in and use the facilities, we want the community who can either have their own allotment or they can come and join in the community allotment area."

MU update on family project

MEMBERS of Hagley Mothers' Union will have an update from the Living Springs family project at a cheese and wine evening in September.

Jane and Robert Chapman, who run the project at Stourton, near Stourbridge, will speak on September 20 at 7.30pm in St Saviour's Church Hall, Hagley.

Raising pounds by losing them



Trainer John Hill who is running the six-week weight loss challenge

SLIMMERS are hoping to pile up the pounds at the same time as losing them for a cancer charity with a new six-week fundraising boot camp.

Professional personal trainer John Hill, of Elbow Street, Cradley Heath, is running the camp for 15 people at Queens Park, Harborne every week.

Each participant has pledged to raise at least £200, and some of those taking part will have their target matched by banks where they work.

All the money raised is being given to MacMillan Cancer Support.

The winner of the camp will be decided by the results of a weigh-in and how much they have lost from around their waist over the six-week period. Mr Hill said: "We have raised £2,500 so far and there's more coming in."

Plans for travellers site thrown out

A PROPOSAL for a traveller site with 15 caravan pitches in Stourport has been thrown out.

Wyre Forest District Council turned down the application for land in Timber Lane.

Last week the councillors said they feared for road safety in a nearby housing estate if the traveller site got the go-ahead. They also said the low-level land could cause a flooding risk for people who moved there. Their con-

cerns came following an officer's report recommending refusal.

More than 400 objections have also been submitted from nearby residents.

One resident, John McMillan, told councillors at the meeting the traveller site would be a "in your face development". He said: "Putting a gypsy site there will blight this area and will be completely out of character compared to the surrounding area. I also think it would create traffic problems through

nearby estates as people go to and from the site." The land in Timber Lane was mainly used for horticulture in the past, although some caravans have been pitched there before and there is a disused outbuilding on the site.

Councillor Cliff Brewer said: "The site does not lend itself for this type of occupation." Councillors also criticised the applicants for not putting forward the plan when the council was compiling a list of possible traveller sites.

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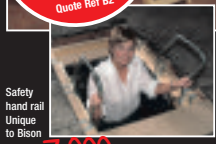


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NEWS

SVR steams on in spite of washed out summer

THE severe weather conditions have failed to dampen visitors' enthusiasm for the Severn Valley Railway, with the attraction welcoming almost 1,500 more than expected.

The 16-mile heritage line had expected to carry 68,900 passengers by the end of last month.

But the rain has failed to deter families, and figures show 70,387 people have boarded trains since the start of the year.

The figures compare almost exactly with those for the same period last year, even though the railway had expected a fall in numbers as people cut back on spending.

General manager Nick Ralls said: "We didn't particularly set out to market the Severn Valley Railway as an all-weather attraction, but from the figures, it certainly looks as though a lot of people are now seeing us in that light, and recognising they can have a thoroughly enjoyable day out on the railway while still staying warm and dry."

"A steam train allows you to cheat the bad weather every time - it's the best umbrella you could possibly have - but since we opened the Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley in 2008 we've been able to offer visitors a really worthwhile indoor attraction too."

"In conditions like those we've seen over the last five or six weeks, the combination of the two has worked really well for us."

The line runs between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.

Left handers' rights joy

A MIDLAND MP is claiming a victory in his campaign for left-handed rights. Peter Luff, MP for Mid-Worcestershire, says he is "delighted" the Government's new national curriculum for primary education would ensure left-handed pupils received specific teaching. He had challenged the last Government to ensure left-handers' needs were part of teacher training.

Minister visits borough



Government minister Francis Maude with Community First representative Janet Hilken, of Dudley, and Community Organiser Matthew Johnson

GOVERNMENT minister Francis Maude pledged to support groups working to improve communities in Dudley borough during a visit to the area.

Mr Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office, was at South Street Baptist Church, Brierley Hill.

He spent more than three hours talking to members of Community First panels and meeting with Community Organisers. Community First is a government-funded scheme aimed at bringing residents together to identify their strengths and priorities to plan for the future. The separate Community Organisers scheme

is also funded by the government and sees people go out into communities to talk with residents about schemes they believe would improve the area.

They then aim to bring people together to improve their lives.

Mr Maude said he was impressed with the work which carried out already, but had wanted to discuss ways of expanding it. There are lots of positive things which are happening here and important lessons to be learned," he said. "There are areas which have been disadvantaged and the purpose of these schemes is to listen to what the community wants."



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NEWS

New police chief wants to build more bridges

Museum engine reopens



Past president of the Newcomen Society Julia Elton reopens the engine house with historic machinery consultant Geoff Wallis at the museum

THE BLACK Country Living Museum's replica 18th Century steam engine has officially reopened after a £100,000 restoration.

For the past year the Thomas Newcomen's 1712 engine at the museum in Dudley has been undergoing vital work. It was unveiled to coincide with the 300th anniversary celebrations of the engine.

Former President of the Newcomen Society Julia Elton stepped

in to cut the ribbon when TV presenter Adam Hart-Davis became ill.

The original engine transformed mining in coalfields all over the country. It is recognised that Newcomen's first successful steam engine was built in 1712 near Dudley Castle.

The work included replacing the wood head frame, adjusting worn parts of the pump and repairing valve gear, piston and cylinders.

THE NEW police chief for Stourbridge and Halesowen has pledged to work closer with the public in the ongoing battle against crime.

Insp Dez Lambert has moved from a role where he was spearheading force changes in Birmingham to replacing Insp Mick Palmer and taking charge of the policing sector covering the two towns.

The officer, who is 35 and has lived in Halesowen all his life, said he wanted to engage with the towns' communities.

He said: "Halesowen is a great area with a community which already works well with the police, but I think there is still room for improvement."

"The better we work with the public the greater support we will get tackling crime, and that is good for everyone - except the criminals. I want people to tell us their policing issues, what they want us to do and report anything suspicious they see in their neighbourhoods."

Providing people who call police with feedback is one way Insp Lambert believes the force can improve its relationship with the public. A high visible police presence on the streets and greater use of social networking will also improve public interaction, the officer says.

The former Halesowen College student said: "People should be able to contact us in a number of different ways and then hear back from us."



Insp Dez Lambert

Sports bash for Beacon

A SPORTING dinner will be held in aid of Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind in October.

The bash at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill will be attended by sportsmen including cricketers Darren Maddy and Gladstone Small and former Villa player Gary Shaw. Tickets cost £30. Call 01902 880111.

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NEWS

Vandals go on wrecking spree damaging vehicles

VANDALS have gone on a wrecking spree causing thousands of pounds of damage to cars in Kingswinford

There have been 24 reports of criminal damage to vehicles in the area since the end of June. Windscreens have been smashed by bricks, wing mirrors ripped off, wipers bent and roofs trampled on.

The attacks have all been within an area of about a mile in Barnett Lane, Cedars Avenue, Cot Lane and Broad Street with most of the incidents happening between 1.30am and 3.30am.

Residents say they fear one gang is responsible - and will keep returning until they are caught. Officers have stepped up overnight patrols.

Grandfather Dennis Wooldridge, aged 73, of Broad Street, was woken by a "huge bang" at about 3am on Sunday when he discovered a rock had been hurled through his Renault Clio's back window. He had only had the 10-year-old car for three weeks, after his Peugeot 106 was written off in a crash.

The retired pressure diecaster said: "I felt absolutely sick when I saw what had happened. I've lived here since 1973 and I've lost countless wing mirrors but this is the worst I have ever known it."

Sgt Chris Collins said: "If you have any information even if it's nothing significant please get in touch."

Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800555111.



Dennis Wooldridge with a rock that was hurled through his car

Charity football contest

ORGANISERS of a five-a-side football tournament are hoping to raise cash for a Stourbridge hospice. Dan Malin, of Stourbridge, will hold the contest at Powerleague, Park Road, Halesowen, on July 29 from 9.30am. Proceeds from the event will go to Mary Stevens Hospice. To register a team, call Mr Malin on 07800920629 or email danmalin1@hotmail.co.uk.

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NEWS

Building is handed award



Chief executive Steve Clay, pre-school staff Keisha Gayle and Fatima Iqbal, and Nyla Armstrong, Remiel Gyasi, Sydney Williams, Lashae Wilson and Sebastian Wyrall

A CHARITY which has served a community for more than 120 years is celebrating after its new nursery was given a local building award. YMCA Black Country and construction company Keepmoat have been given the award for the Community Category of the 2012 Built in Quality Award. The new facilities are part of a £900,000 transformation of the West Bromwich and District YMCA centre in Carters Green. Along with the nursery and youth centre the charity, provides a fitness club, IT facilities, room hire and a healthy eating cafe, as well as 74 supported accommodation places for 16 to 49 year olds, many of whom have been homeless in the past.

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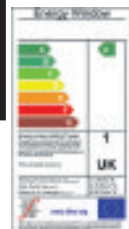
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NEWS

A £1.3m upgrade to region bus fleet

NATIONAL Express is spending £1.3 million on an overhaul of its West Midlands bus fleet, the largest public transport refurbishment project ever in the UK.

The Birmingham-based business has already begun the project. When complete, the fleet will have vehicles with new modern interiors and cleaner engines that are 20 per cent more efficient.

The work will extend the life of the buses by at least a decade.

Bosses say customers will enjoy cleaner, more comfortable journeys as a result.

Peter Coates, managing director of National Express UK Bus Division, said they were also continuing to invest in new vehicles.

Last year 220 new vehicles including 18 green hybrid buses, were added.

The fuel savings delivered by the refit alone will enable the company to cover the cost of the refurbishment within three years.

The more fuel efficient buses will also help improve air quality in Birmingham, which is a key objective for both Birmingham City Council and transport authority Centro.

Mr Coates said: "We have industry leading engineers in Birmingham delivering a project which will provide customers with more comfortable, cleaner and greener buses."

Father pledges to continue artist legacy of tragic Mark

Oliver Speight tells **BEN BENTLEY** why he is dedicating his life to the memory of his TV presenter son Mark

THE feeling of loss, as Mark Speight's father Oliver puts it, is "in perpetuity".

Wolverhampton-born children's television star and artist Mark took his own life in 2008, but, determined to fund a project to continue his work of taking art into communities, Oliver Speight sold his house and now lives in a hotel.

Today, reflecting upon the moment a police officer knocked on his door to break the news of his son's death, Oliver, aged 74, says: "It was his time, as I look back at it now. But the loss you never, ever get over.

"It's an unrecoverable loss."

"But the thing I remember when I was first told about what happened was the sense of fun in Mark, because in the wake of his death we had 26,000 emails and 95,000 hits on YouTube, and that told you that he was so loved by children and parents."

"And it took Mark's death to understand why I was living and what my function in life was. Because he handed me a baton. He said 'my energy is gone now, you carry on'."

Mark, who grew up in Tettenhall, had the world at his feet as the host of BBC children's art programme *SMart*.

But his world fell apart when his fiancée, fellow presenter Natasha Collins, died suddenly after taking cocaine.

Mark, aged 42, was subsequently arrested, but after being released without charge, he disappeared and was found hanged near Paddington Station in London



Oliver Speight: "Mark was so loved by children and parents"



Presenter Mark Speight

in January 2008. Two suicide notes were discovered a few days later, describing how he could no longer live without Natasha.

Love and affection for Mark was no more apparent than at his funeral at St Michael and All Angels Church in Tettenhall, when hundreds of relatives, friends and colleagues turned out to pay their respects.

And it was here, as Oliver read the eulogy in which he described his son as "a Pied Piper who took children on a magical mystery tour of art", that it came to him just how he would pick up his dad's baton.

Passion, determination, commitment, joy and future vision are words Oliver uses in describing Speight of the Art, but during a chat in a hotel lobby in Telford it quickly becomes clear that these terms perfectly apply to the inspirational figure before me.

Oliver's commitment to the cause is beyond doubt. Selling your house in France to live in a hotel tells you that much.

He has family down the road in Coalport, and says his hotel provides an ideal base from which to travel the country and bring a variety of arts projects to children, many of them disadvantaged.

"I thought, let's continue this artistic and creative journey that Mark had started," says Oliver, who is sure his son would approve of Speight of the Art.

"I think he would be proud, because the work he wanted to do in society is now being done. We funded this mostly ourselves and I have to be careful that we now get sponsorship to take it to the next level, but 9,472 children have so far benefited."

External funding is now vital for the continuation of the work Oliver has started.

A recent joint venture with the NHS Mental Health Trust for South Staffordshire and Shropshire saw workshops conducted. An event at the M6 services at Stafford involved 200 children and was supported by 20,000 members of the public.

In September, Speight of the Art will engage in a venture with Wolverhampton Art Gallery, under the banner 'Bringing Mark home'.

A property businessman by profession, Oliver says: "Speight of the Art has changed my life. It has made me realise that time is of the essence and if I am going to do things I've got to get on with this."

● For information on volunteering for Speight of the Art, or to help financially visit www.speightoftheart.org.uk

Tourism growth to boost economy

TOURISM officers expect the number of visitors to South Staffordshire to increase by 100,000 by 2016, raking in millions of pounds.

With attractions such as V Festival and Baggeridge Country Park, the area already draws 1.8 million tourists a year, making about £85m for the local economy.

Now Grant Mitchell, strategic development manager at South Staffordshire Council, has revealed the council is aiming for another 100,000 visitors within the next four years.

This could be worth as much as £4.7m to the area.

He said this would partly be achieved through a growth in British people taking holidays in their own country.

"Over the past few years we've seen more people holidaying at home and with experts predicting that trend will continue, we're confident of seeing more people visiting our local attractions," he said.

"We're also looking to work with attractions to deliver tailored trips such as the Footsteps of a King Tour, which allows visitors to take in Boscombe House and Moseley Old Hall all as part of one great package."

Council leader Councillor Brian Edwards said tourism was a "hugely important part of the local economy".

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TRAVEL



A view towards City Hall and Burgtheater

Waltz off to Vienna for art lovers' treat

Opulence, decadence, culture as well as the best cakes in the world – Vienna is the traveller's hot ticket for 2012.

Glimmering galleries and museums stand on almost every corner, and coffee-house aromas of ground beans, hot chocolate and honeyed pastries gild the air.

For the third year running, Vienna has been voted the 'most liveable' city in the world – meaning the health, wealth, leisure and day-to-day needs of its fold are met at an enviably high level. This can only be good news for the tourist whose stresses and cares can be eased by a dip into this well-oiled playground of a capital, where comfort, transport, entertainment and Wiener Schnitzel reign.

Fascination

But while today's Vienna is remarkable, it is the Vienna of the early 1900s that holds such a fascination for visitors who want to immerse themselves in the beauty of a bygone era – and the city is ready to share its success.

This year is the 150th anniversary of the birth of artist Gustav Klimt, the turn-of-the-century genius whose painting *The Kiss* is one of the most easily recognisable and revered images in the world.

Vienna has pulled out all the stops to celebrate. This year there are more works by Klimt on show than ever before through eight special exhibitions and these are in addition to the wealth of his art which is incorporated into the city's buildings.

Art fans with little time should head straight for the Lower Belvedere palace which is home not only to the largest collection of Gustav Klimts but *The Kiss*, said to epitomise the spirit of change that heralded the modernist era. It is worth the scrum to savour this

vision and to eavesdrop on fellow viewers happy to exchange conflicting views on what the painting means. Discussion still rages on about the identity of the two lovers in the painting and whether their embrace is being shared or endured.

Other must-sees are The Secession building – which houses the Beethoven Prize; the Kunsthistorisches Museum which has Klimt's work on the stairway, the ceiling paintings of the Burgtheater; the Wein Museum which has the largest collection of his drawings and my favourite, the Leopold Museum, which is running Klimt: Up Close and Personal until August 27.

Here his masterpieces are exhibited alongside photos of the man himself together with postcards and letters written by him to his muse Emilie Floge over 20 years. I was lucky enough to be there on its opening night, and the buzz as the artist's life was laid bare was a genuine thrill to experience. Even those with little or no knowledge of art will soon find themselves, as I did, caught up in the whole saga of

Klimt and his friends. In 1910 they were pioneers in the world of literature, visual art, architecture and music and were at the helm of a Vienna that had a population of two million and was the world's fifth largest city. Their legacy is all around. The city is one of the most important cultural centres in the world with architecture, painting, poetry and music in abundance.

It is home to the Vienna Boys' Choir, which was founded in 1498. Reservations can be made to hear them sing on Sunday mornings in the Palace chapel. And forward-thinkers should also buy tickets for the renowned Vienna State Opera, which never has the same performance two nights running.

Sumptuous

I enjoyed the most sumptuous production of *Carmen*, and was almost as spellbound by the majestic staircases, high-ceilinged and ornamentation as I was enthralled by Bizet's tragic tale.

For lovers of fresh air, half of the city's total area is made up of gardens, parks, and woods. Rests in between are easy with 800 coffee houses dotted throughout the city.

Food is rich and fulsome – hearty soups, stews, meatballs, herrings and goulash washed down with local beer and wines.

Visitors inspired by what they find can visit the many markets and take home their own taste of Vienna. I did. No pastries or sausage for me though, but a small jug emblazoned with a print of *The Kiss* – a reminder of a trip which brought art, a city and a whole era to life.

Sarah Cowen



Enjoy a visit to one of Vienna's 800 coffee houses



The inside of the Vienna State Opera house captivates

TRAVEL FACTS

British Midland International (bmi) offers two flights a day between London Heathrow and Vienna. Economy fares start at just £100 return, including taxes. Book at www.flybmi.com

The CAT (City Airport Train) runs from directly outside Vienna airport to the heart of the city and costs 16 euros return.

A double room at the Hotel Das Tyrol costs from 149 euros. Tel. 0043 1587 5415 or visit www.das-tyrol.at

For more information about Vienna, visit the Vienna Tourist Board's website, www.vienna.info

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Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups are from Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Depart Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing. Stay the Friday evening too for an additional cost.

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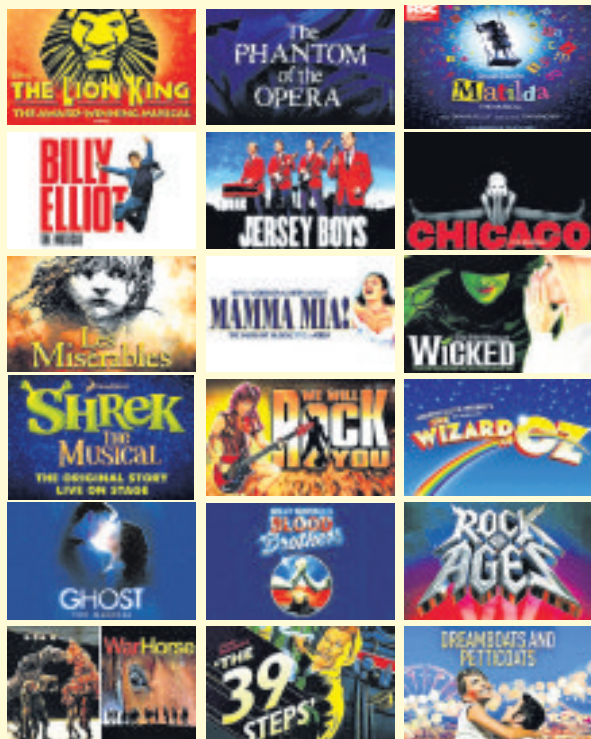
The self-drive break is for one evening staying either on the Friday night or Saturday night in a four-star hotel. You will see the evening performance: for Friday night you will have a top price ticket and for Saturday evening there is a choice of price bands. Stay extra nights for a reasonable supplement (subject to availability).

* The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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For a theatre brochure please call (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), email starextra@expressandstar.co.uk (please include your name and address) or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



NEWS

Councils staring into a blackhole over pensions

Trophies haul for dancers



Front, from left, Maria Emms, Abi Lo, Elliot Atkin, and back, from left, Ellie Tonks, Lauryn Taylor, and Mary-Kate Flavell with their trophies

DANCERS flew the flag for the Black Country in a competition against hundreds of international competitors.

Touch of Class, which has centres in Dudley and Brierley Hill, achieved high positions in the recent World Freestyle Dance Championships held at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool.

Member Ellie Tonks, aged 18, beat off tough competition to take the runner-up spot in the world championship event.

Mary-Kate Flavell, 15, made it to

the final in the slow dance section of the competition and fellow member Maria Emms, 11, was runner-up in the intermediate section.

Maria and Elliot Atkin, 13, also made it to the final of the couples section. Abi Lo, seven, also did well in the beginners category.

Spokesman for the dance group Anna Jones said they were very proud of the youngsters' success in the competition. "They really did well and put in a tremendous amount of hard work in preparing for this competition," she said.

COUNCILS across the region face a pensions blackhole as the number of people contributing to schemes plummets and those drawing from them climbs.

A probe by the TaxPayers' Alliance has found councils across the country are struggling to balance the books when it comes to pensions schemes because they are employing fewer staff. Mark Crutchley, from the West Midlands Pensions Fund, said: "It's not uncommon for a local authority pension scheme to be paying out more than it is receiving."

"We know that councils across the country are downsizing so obviously that means fewer people are contributing. However, because we hold investments and we have income from those investments, that can be used to top up any difference."

Currently, he said, the West Midlands Pensions Fund holds £8.6 billion in assets which it can use to offset any variation between payouts and contributions.

In Dudley, 40 fewer people contributed towards the council's pension scheme from five years ago, but 932 more were claiming.

In Sandwell, 51 fewer people paid towards the scheme but 204 more were claiming. Meanwhile in Staffordshire, 806 fewer people paid towards the scheme but 2,627 more were claiming.

Director of the TaxPayers' Alliance Matthew Sinclair urged the Government to ensure workers pay more into the schemes.

Block of flats approved

AN APARTMENT block will be built on vacant land in Dudley town centre earmarked for a regeneration scheme after plans were given the go-ahead.

Developer Carrott Investments will build a five-storey building with seven apartments and space for a shop on a site near The Full Moon pub, King Street.

The block would have six two bedroom flats and one three bedroom flat.

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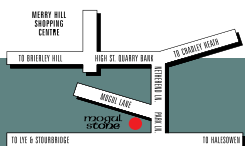
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CLUB NEWS

Richard's talk on life as a dame

Club serves up treat with Wimbledon teas

PENN TG

THE first meeting in June was the Jubilee celebration and members dressed in red, white and blue.

Entertainment came from Richard Westcott and his 'Confessions of a Pantomime Dame'. He soon had everyone laughing and joining in. Richard changed from a smartly dressed gentleman, applied his make-up, put on the padded underwear to make the dress look the part and with high heeled shoes and a lovely blonde wig transformed himself into a wonderful pantomime dame.

Quick costume changes were managed with help from one of the members doing his zips.

The group then had strawberries and cream, shortbread and sparkling wine to toast the Queen.

Members were taught how to make a box from folded paper squares at the social evening.

Social Studies speaker Jane James gave a talk on cycling and women, a fascinating insight into the early days of cycling and how women were hampered not only by the attitudes of the time but also by their clothes.

Women's journals of the day even gave dire warnings of all the illnesses that could befall women after riding a bicycle.

Meetings are held at Penn United Community Hall, Penn Road, at 7.15 pm on the second, third and fourth Wednesdays of the month and a warm welcome is extended to new members and visitors.



Inner Wheel Club members sell their wares at the Wombourne Jubilee Carnival

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

AT THE Wombourne Jubilee Carnival members of the Inner Wheel club of Sedgley & Wombourne sold plated scones jam and butter as 'Wimbledon teas' and punch balloons with the funds raised going to Local charities supported by the group.

Carnival congratulations

SPEAKER for the evening was Ed Shaw who gave an illustrated talk on central America.

After finishing National Service at the age of 20, he decided to cycle around the world finding work.

He particularly enjoyed the hospitality of the Americans and now has a holiday home in the 'middle of the Arizona desert' where he and his wife spend several months of the year.

At first, when Ed and his

WOMBOURNE WI

wife arrived in the States, they purchased an old car to visit places on the way to their abode.

On the reverse trip, they explored more areas and then sold the vehicle before flying home.

Eventually they decided to buy a new, red pickup which also converts into a motor home enabling them

to explore more territories south of the border. Slides were shown of his travels including animals encountered along the way like a sloth, snakes and spiders.

Mr Shaw raises money for charity, on one occasion cycling across America. He has also cycled to Rome.

While eating hot dogs, members were reminded of their outing to Halfpenny Green and they congratulated themselves on a wonderful carnival.

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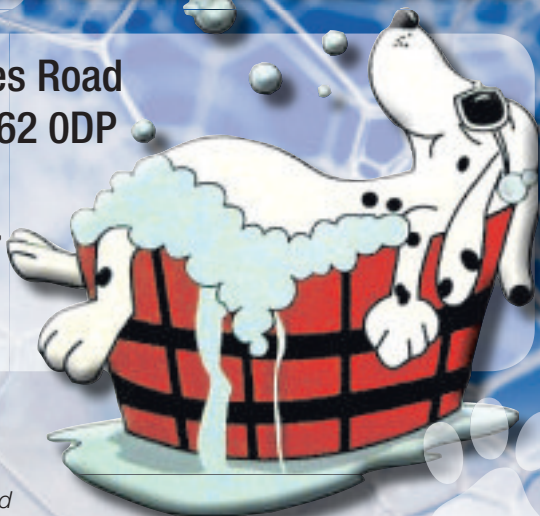
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BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394651

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380918

FEMININE caring, young, mid 60's N/S woman, varied interests, seeks genuine, loyal male of similar age to share togetherness and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391931

NICOLE attractive, blonde, green eyes, young 51, professional, own home, 2 boys, loves jazz, countryside, dogs, seeks genuine male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390244

WIDOW genuine, 70, kind, caring, N/S, seeks male for friendship, relationship, holidays and outings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 301333

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

NICKY looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388393

50YR old female, seeks male for fun and socialising. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323580

KIND loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391863

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable male for mutual companionship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387057

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238

HOLLY 25, slim, attractive, brunette, likes gym, WLTm nice, sensitive male of similar age for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380851

CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378209

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

DIONNE 5ft 3ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, 42, single mum, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376801

JANICE attractive female, 50, size 12-14, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376115

KATHY caring lady 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male, 55-65 for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374773

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTm older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377511

JESSIE single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for equally respectful relationship, hopefully blossoming into love. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382087

JOY 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTm male 30-45 for meets. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629

LYNN 37 single mum, petite slim and very pretty, seeking caring funny guy to be with and become my Mr Wonderful. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386633

MORAG 21yr old attractive dark haired student nurse, new to area and very lonely seeks mature male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391087

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTm older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378481

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308

FUN loving lady 56, outgoing, honest, caring, seeks caring male, 55-60 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391192

CARLY beautiful slim brunette looking for naughty mature male 50-70yrs for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376569

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

ALICIA 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375139

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378483

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535

VICKY honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTm someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911

CLAUDIA 37yr old attractive single mum who has been unlucky in love looking for special male to make me feel gorgeous again. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390991

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

PRETTY barmaid, curvy size 14, loves music, WLTm easygoing male for good times, fun nights in/out and maybe more, 20-40yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391111

5FT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks male, 40-50, honest, caring, trustworthy, down to earth and bubbly. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388741

JANE 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, with ties, WLTm understanding tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375141

TERRI 39, attractive in great shape, blonde, blue eyes, seeking manly professional to dominate and enjoy fun. Call me to find out more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387061

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up. 30-60. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364311

29YR old large black female looking for much older male, up to 70yrs, for naughty friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 370017

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363277

STACEY young 20yr old looking for fun. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382091

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380591

DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 327573

LAURA 36, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384171

LADY 70's, seeks gent of similar age for friendship, days out and holidays. Dudley area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361043

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 357919

42YR old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358399

PROFESSIONAL independent lady, 49, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, genuine male with GSOH for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 353951

BRIGHT bubbly, adventurous, outgoing, honest, trustworthy female, some and find me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392335

SINGLE mum, non drinker, seeks male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350085

ATTRACTIVE female, 45, slim, affectionate, intelligent, seeks honest, caring male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 301001

SLIM attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 to share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 351813

FEEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350397

REGISTER USING YOUR MOBILE

0333 313 7360

REPLY TO MEMBERS

0906 500 3955

(09065 cost £1.53p/m)

COLLECT MESSAGES

0906 500 3957

(09065 cost £1.53p/m)

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125.

(T&C's below)

IAN 61, seeks attractive lady for discreet daytime meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393529

KEVIN attractive young looking 45yr old, slim, fit, varied interests, likes football, meals out, cinema, pubs, holidays, nights in, seeks similar aged female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393523

GENT 58, OHAC, retired, sensitive, caring, warm, easygoing, N/S, seeks N/S slim, attractive lady for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393515

60'S M male, West Midlands, WLTm local lady for weekend fun dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393303

SINGLE male, 58, good looking, loyal, caring, no ties, seeks mature, similar female to become soul mates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393201

32YR old slim, dark haired male, adventurous, creative, likes music, walks, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753

GOOD looking 39yr old male, likes pubs, music, walks, swimming, seeks nice female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392943

51YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, single parent, likes most things, sports, seeks slim, honest, caring female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392933

RALPH 65, 6ft, quiet, genuine, lonely widower, likes nights in/out, weekends away, seeks slim-medium build widowed lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391359

TONY 50, dark hair, 6ft, seeks large female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393079

THOMAS 39, seeks female, 27-48 for relationship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392851

45YR old male, average build, GSOH, likes country walks, meals out, don't be shy, now 50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393137

KIND honest, caring male, 70, likes socialising, holidays, OHAC, seeks female, 60-70 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393053

55YR old male, slim, seeks lady, any age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391712

CHRIS 53, 5ft 8ins, slim-medium build, GSOH, affectionate, loving, loyal, likes music, walks, cooking looking for that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391681

SINGLE dad, 44, slim, good looking, seeks genuine lady, N/S for special times, nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367415

WHITE male, 45, medium build, blue eyes, seeks Asian lady for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392489

PAUL 61, seeks attractive lady for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392463

TONY 56, dark hair, 6ft, confident, outgoing, seeks female, 60-80 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392203

WARREN 60's, romantic, WLTm affectionate lady for evenings/weekend meetings and close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392191

DON 6ft, semi-retired businessman, varied interests, days in, meals out, holidays, music, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391590

ATTRACTIVE male, 41, likes gym, socialising, seeks female, 25-40 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391580

DARK handsome male, Tiger Woods lookalike, seeking BBW. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392179

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, hurt in past, seeks female, 32-40. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392769

NAUGHTY 40 something, tall, smart, GSOH, seeks lady for rainy days and Sundays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392665

TOM 62, fit, likes tennis, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392559

MALE 38, seeks female, any age for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392645

MARK 44, easygoing, fun loving, athletic, seeks similar aged female for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 197470

BLACK male, 42, 5ft 7ins, average build, GSOH, seeks nice looking, slim-medium build female, 30-40 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386347

YOUNG at heart, professional, N/S male, 50, fit, sporty, likes DTV, outdoors, seeks similar female, 44-54. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 365972

KARL 40, fun loving, caring, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398662

MALE 49, sensitive, caring, warm, body builder, seeks slim, attractive, genuine soul mate in the local area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368717

DARREN 42, likes pubs, clubs, drives, meals out, motorcross, seeks female, 28-35. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389127

ATTRACTIVE kind, young looking 45yr old male, slim, GSOH, seeks similar female for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392241

GENUINE good

What's On! Dudley

Memorial cricket match for charity

A CRICKET match in memory of a Halesowen sailor will take place on Sunday at Halesowen Cricket Club from 1.30pm.

A team from Halesowen will take on the full Royal Navy Cricket team in the annual challenge match.

Gates open for the game and pre-match entertainment at 11.30am.

Admission is free but donations will be accepted. All proceeds go towards the Paul McCann Fund For Needy Children.

The event is held to commemorate the life of Paul McCann who was tragically killed on March 21 2007.

Afternoon of jazz playing at home

AN AFTERNOON of jazz is to be held in the grounds of Lapal House care home, Lapal Lane South, on Sunday.

It will feature Europa Jazz Band from 2pm to 4pm.

Visitors will also be able to see a display of classic cars, including a 1967 Rolls Royce, a 1935 Austin Riley, a 1959 Mini and one of the last original Minis.

Entry to the event at the residential care home in Lapal Lane South is £3.

Summer stroll

A SUMMER stroll is planned at The Leasowes on Saturday July 28 from 10am to 12.30pm.

Booking is essential by calling 01384 814642. Visitors should meet at the wardens' base, off Mucklow Hill, Halesowen.

You'll have the time of your life with this Dirty delight

Dirty Dancing, Birmingham Hippodrome
FROM the audience reaction Baby and crew
certainly did give them the time of their lives.

The packed Hippodrome came alive to the music and incredible choreography of Dirty Dancing which is due to run at the theatre until late summer. This is definitely one not to miss. The standing ovation at the end said it all.

The energetic cast took us back to the summer of 1963, complete with corny jokes and the wonderful songs.

The story is a bit predictable as Baby transforms from having two left feet to near perfect dancing with her holiday love, the dance teacher, but it has a wonderful feelgood factor and everyone lapped it up.

The dancing was superb, no more so than from Johnny (Paul-Michael Jones) who has represented England as a Latin American and ballroom dancer, who teamed up on stage with Penny (Nicky Griffiths) to teach dancing to the holiday-makers at Kellerman's.

Jill Winternitz was superb as Frances 'Baby' Houseman, who is literally swept off her feet by the dance teacher. The audience were also swept along with the romance when Johnny uttered those words made famous by Patrick Swayze in the film: "Nobody puts Baby in the corner".

Hayes was certainly the highlight of the cast, playing his role to perfection with natural comedic timing.

Alison Norton

Sue Attwater



Meera Syal is taking the plunge into Shakespeare

It's much ado for Meera

WOLVERHAMPTON-born actress and comedienne Meera Syal is making her Royal Shakespeare Company debut this summer as the feisty Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing.

The Essington-raised former star of Goodness Gracious Me and The Kumars at No 42 will lead an Asian cast as Shakespeare's story of love and deceit is transported to India. The RSC promises audiences at the Courtyard Theatre in Stratford will make their passage to India as soon as they arrive at the theatre with awnings, street stalls and Asian music.

Former Birmingham Rep director Iqbal Khan's production of the romantic comedy runs from July 26 to September 15, and then goes to London's West End.

Choir to perform at town church

A POPULAR choir will perform at Holy Trinity Church, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, on Saturday.

Voices in Harmony will join forces with Wolverhampton's Marston Singers for the event.

Tickets are £6 and available on the door.

The concert starts at 7pm. Cash raised from the event will be donated to the church's restoration fund. The church has received £15,000 from English Heritage in preparation for major repairs to the church roof in 2013. It is a grade-II listed building.

Take the plunge at leisure centre

RESIDENTS in Halesowen are being urged to take the plunge and learn to swim this summer at the town's leisure centre.

The centre, in Pool Road, will be running intensive swimming lessons for beginners of all ages this summer.

Half hour lessons for all abilities will run from July 30 to August 3 and from August 6 to 10. Admission is £15 per week. Lessons for children aged four years and above will run from 9am, 9.30am and 10am.

Fun in the park

FACE painting, sumo fun and an inflatable football pitch are among the activities being held at Hunt-ington Park, Halesowen, on August 22.

The event will run from 1pm to 4pm.

WEST MIDLAND SAFARI & LEISURE PARK

SUMMER NIGHTS

OPEN 10AM-9PM DAILY

1st-31st August

WEST MIDLAND SAFARI AND LEISURE PARK Spring Grove, Bewdley, Worcestershire, DY12 1LF 01299 402114 wmssp.co.uk/events

What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 21.07.12

CHOICE



Davina McCall

The Million Pound Drop Channel 4, 7.10pm
Over the next four weeks, this quiz show will be paying its own tribute to our summer of sport by inviting celebrities and noted athletes to compete for the chance to raise as much money as possible for Paralympic and disability-related charities. And if across each weekend, the couples can save enough bundles of money from the Drop, they'll unlock an extra cash bonus. So, the pressure is really on this week's pairs, who include Radio 1 mates Sara Cox and Aled Hayden Jones, actress Natalie Cassidy and X Factor contestant Frankie Cocozza.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Live Golf: The Open Championship. **12.00** BBC News: Regional News. **Weather: 12.10** Live Golf: The Open Championship.
6.10 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.
6.30 Film: **Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade**. (1989) Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Connery.
8.25 **The National Lottery: Secret Fortune**. Siblings Zoe and Ronnie compete in the high-tension quiz show presented by Nick Knowles, hoping to win enough money to take their mother on a trip to Las Vegas.
9.20 **Casualty**. Part one of two. Locals hold a vigil for the man who died after being Tasered by the police, only for violence to break out – with Scarlett and Lloyd right in the thick of things. Concludes tomorrow.
10.10 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 **Mrs Brown's Boys**. Newlyweds Dermot and Maria argue. Last in the series. (R)
11.00 **Live at the Apollo**. Micky Flanagan introduces Jason Byrne and Seann Walsh; (R) National Lottery Update.
11.45 Film: **Grosse Pointe Blank**. (1997) A hitman runs into trouble when he tries to combine his latest assassination job with a trip home for a school reunion. Black comedy drama, starring John Cusack.
1.25 Weatherview. **1.30** Sign Zone: Faster, Higher, Stronger: The history of the Olympic Games. (R)
2.30 **Usain Bolt: The Fastest Man Alive**. (R) **3.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.05** Film: **Jubal**. (1956) Western, starring Glenn Ford and the late Ernest Borgnine. **1.45** Show Me the Monet. **2.30** Racing from Ascot. Clare Balding presents live coverage of today's meeting, including the 4.35 King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes (1m 4f). Plus, races at 2.45, 3.20 and 3.55. **5.00** Formula 1: German Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.
6.10 **Live Golf: The Open Championship**. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the third day's play at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club, where the remaining players on the course complete their penultimate rounds. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
8.00 **The Hollow Crown – Henry V**. Tom Hiddleston, John Hurt, Paterson Joseph and Anton Lesser star in this adaptation of Shakespeare's play about the 15th-century King's war with France. Last in the series.
10.15 **QI**. Guests Rob Brydon, Sandi Toksvig, Fred MacAulay and regular panellist Alan Davies join host Stephen Fry, who asks questions on the topic of highs and lows. (R)
10.45 **TOTP2**. Featuring archive performances by acts including Culture Club, Deep Purple, the Human League, the Sex Pistols, Bob Marley and the Wailers, and Voice of the Beehive. (R)
11.45 Film: **Kicks**. (2009) Premiere. Comedy drama, with Kerrie Hayes, Nichola Burley, Jamie Doyle and Gary Cargill.
1.05 BBC News. **3.35** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini City. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook.
9.25 ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Film: **Escape to Victory**. (1981) **2.35** Film: **The Man with the Golden Gun**. (1974) **5.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.10** ITV News; Weather. **5.25** Primeval.
6.30 **You've Been Framed**. Extreme! Harry Hill narrates a selection of some of the most extreme clips filmed by viewers, featuring various trampolines and a bike rider enduring an uncomfortable landing. (R)
7.30 **The Cube**. Phillip Schofield invites world champion hurdler Dai Greene and former Olympic javelin thrower Fatima Whitbread to take on a series of fiendishly difficult challenges in the cube.
8.35 **TV's Biggest Blockbusters**. The most watched programmes in British television history, revealing the top 10 shows in four categories – entertainment, live events, drama & soaps, and comedy.
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 **Mad Mad World**. With Peter Andre, Vinnie Jones and Christine Bleakley.
11.30 **Take Me Out**. A martial-arts champion, a soul singer, a car salesman and a street dancer try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their dates. (R)
12.35 **The Store**. ITV News. **Headlines: 2.40** In Plain Sight. (R)
3.25 ITV Nightvision. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Channel 4 Presents – London 2012: Ellie Simmonds – Part III. The swimmer finishes her preparations for the Paralympics. (R) **6.05** Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.00** British Formula Ford Championship. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Ibiza Rocks: Ed Sheeran. (R) **9.10** T4: The Dark Knight Rises: T4 Movie Special. **9.40** T4: New Girl. (R) **10.15** T4: Revenge. **11.15** T4: Suburgatory. **11.45** T4: Summer Daze. **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 – Hannah Cockcroft Part III. (R) **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.10 **Come Dine with Me**. Hairdresser Mel Steel hosts the final party in Hertfordshire. (R)
6.35 **Channel 4 News**. **7.05** **Channel 4 News**. The role of father figures in modern society.
7.10 **The Million Pound Drop**. Natalie Cassidy and Frankie Cocozza, Sara Cox and Aled Haydn Jones, and Jonathan Edwards and Colin Jackson work in pairs to win money for charity.
9.00 **Film: Date Night**. (2010) Premiere. Comedy, starring Tina Fey and Steve Garellick.
10.45 Film: **Another 48 Hrs**. (1990) Comedy thriller sequel, starring Eddie Murphy and Nick Nolte.
12.40 **The Million Pound Drop**. (R) **2.15** Film: **Gentlemen Broncos**. (2009) **3.45** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.30** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Zoo Days. (R) **10.05** How Do They Do It? (R) **10.35** Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) **11.35** Film: **Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol**. (1987) **1.20** Film: **Adventures in Babysitting**. (1987) **3.15** Film: **Flay Home**. (1998) **5.20** Film: **Stone Cold**. (2005)
7.00 **Cricket on 5**. England v South Africa. Mark Nicholas presents highlights from the third day of the First Test at the Oval.
8.00 **5 News Weekend**.
8.05 **NCIS**. New evidence reveals the port-to-port killer has infiltrated the agency and plans to murder a member of the NCIS team, prompting Gibbs to seek the help of former mentor Mike Franks. (R)1
9.10 **Big Brother**. Highlights of the most recent goings-on, including the latest eviction from the housemates' point of view.
10.10 **CSI: Miami**. New series. The final season of the police drama begins with a wounded Horatio racing to save Natalia from drowning, before setting a trap for the man who tried to kill him.
11.05 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation**. A man dies from overeating and it emerges he had a rare genetic disorder. Meanwhile, a couple going through an acrimonious divorce are seemingly killed by their own dog. (R)
12.05 **SuperCasino**. **4.00** **HouseBusters**. (R) **4.25** **Great Scientists**. (R) **4.50** **County Secrets**. (R) **5.00** **Hana's Helpline**. (R) **5.10** **The Milkshake! Show**. (R) **5.35** **Thomas & Friends**. (R) **5.45** **Roary the Racing Car**. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Real Hustle: New Recruits
7.30 Top Gear **8.30** Film: **Shrek** (2001) **9.55** Russell Howard's Good News **10.25** Live at the Electric **10.55** Family Guy **11.40** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 The Blue Planet **8.00** BBC Proms 2012. The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra perform Beethoven's Symphonies Nos 3 and 4. **10.10** Film: **Ajami** (2009)
ITV2
2.10 America's Got Talent **4.50** Film: **Free Willy 3: The Rescue** (1997) **6.45** Film: **The Mummy** (1999) Action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **9.00** Film: **Casino Royale** (2006)
ITV3
3.35 Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four **5.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Film: **Mystic River** (2003)
ITV4
2.00 Live Cycling: Tour de France. Stage 19 from Bonneval to Chartres. **5.00** Goodwood Festival of Speed **6.00** 20 Football Games That Shook the World **7.00** Cycling: Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Film: **Space Cowboys** (2000) **10.30** Film: **Training Day** (2001)
E4
3.10 Desperate Housewives **4.05** Revenge **5.05** How I Met Your Mother **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** Rules of Engagement **8.30** Suburgatory **9.00** Derren Brown: Evening of Wonders **10.40** The Big Bang Theory **11.35** The Midnight Beast
Film4
3.15 Carry On Spying (1964) **5.00** The Mistress of Spices (2005) **6.55** Footloose (1984) **9.00** The Happening (2008) **10.45** Aliens (1986)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 22.07.12

CHOICE



Kenneth Branagh

Wallander
BBC1, 9pm

It's the final edition of this series, but don't panic – a fourth run will be made, although Kenneth Branagh claims it will be the last. Here, Wallander is disturbed by a visit from Linda's childhood friend Anna Westin late at night. She's a troubled soul who then disappears, and it isn't until later that the detective discovers a link between her and an elderly murder victim whose badly burned body has been found in a shallow grave. Linda returns to Ystad to help her father with the investigation. They worry that Anna may become the latest victim of a religious fanatic.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Country Tracks. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** BBC News. **12.35** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.35** Live Golf: The Open Championship.

7.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.15 Countryfile. Matt Baker learns about the Victorian doctor whose Wenlock Olympian Games inspired the modern Olympics and Adam Henson visits a Lancashire farm where the dairy cows milk themselves. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.10 Casualty. Part two of two. As the vigil descends into a full-scale riot, Jordan performs life-saving surgery on girlfriend Yvonne, while Scarlett faces the police. Last in the series.

9.00 Wallander. The detective investigates a connection between an elderly murder victim and the disappearance of one of Linda's childhood friends. Kenneth Branagh stars. Last in the series.

10.30 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.55 John Bishop's Britain. The comedian tackles the subject of friends.

11.40 Formula 1: German Grand Prix Highlights. Leo McKenzie presents action from the 10th round of the season, which was staged at the Hockenheimring for the first time since 2010. (R)

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** Sign Zone: Faster, Higher, Stronger. (R) **2.15** Holby City. (R) **3.15** Britain's Lost Routes with Griff Rhys Jones. (R) **4.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. (R) **11.00** Live Golf: The Open Championship. **12.35** Film: Jack. (1996) **2.25** Show Me the Monet. **3.10** Escape to the Country. **3.55** Flog It! (R) **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** Formula 1: German Grand Prix Highlights.

7.00 Secrets of Our Living Planet. Chris Packham travels around the globe to reveal the secrets of watery habitats, examining how plankton influence atmosphere and climate. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Engineering Giants: Gas Rig Strip-Down. Tom Wrigglesworth and Rob Bell follow each step of the process as a gas platform is pulled from the North Sea and taken to Newcastle to be disassembled and recycled.

9.00 World's Most Dangerous Roads. Hugh Dennis and David Baddiel travel along more than 1,200 miles of hazardous roads in Ethiopia on a journey to Aksum, the country's holiest place. Last in the series.

10.00 Mock the Week – Again. Another chance to see an edition of the comedy show. Hosted by Dara O Briain, with guests joining the panel to poke fun at the news. (R)

10.30 Line of Duty. Fleming resolves to salvage the anti-corruption investigation and goes to worrying lengths to earn Gates' trust – but arouses Morton's suspicions in the process. (R)

11.30 Twenty Twelve. Ian discovers Daniel has been offered a new job. (R) **12.00** Film: Sparkle. (2006) **1.40** BBC News. **4.15** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **1.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **2.35** TV's Biggest Blockbusters. (R) **4.25** Doc Martin. (R) **5.25** The Chase. (R)

6.25 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.40 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Britain's Secret Treasures. Michael Burk and Bettany Hughes reveal the top 10 historical artefacts discovered by the public, including Viking treasure and a 3,500-year-old gold cup. Last in the series.

8.00 Dancing on Ice Goes Gold. Olympic medalists Colin Jackson, Olga Korbut, Tessa Sanderson, Pipa Wilson, Jamie Baulch, Steve Williams and Gail Emms each perform an ice-skating routine for the show's judges.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.20 Bomber Command. John Sergeant pays tribute to the airmen of RAF Bomber Command who died serving their country and tells the stories of some of the surviving members. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Sevens Series. Peter Richards presents action from the Group B fixtures at Edgely Park, with Leicester Tigers, London Welsh, Northampton Saints and Sale Sharks the sides involved.

12.15 The Store. Home shopping: ITV News Headlines. **2.15** Golden Balls. (R) **3.05** Motorsport UK. **3.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Ironman 2012. **6.40** Canary Wharf Triathlon. **7.05** The Great Swim Series. **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.25** Will & Grace. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.35** Jamie Does Marrakech. (R) **1.35** How to Cook Like Heston. (R) **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.05** Deal or No Deal. **5.05** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 – Will Bayley Part III. (R) **5.10** Channel 4 News. **5.40** 4thought.tv. **5.45** Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief. (2010) Premiere. Fantasy adventure, starring Logan Lerman.

8.00 Come Dine with Me. Four contestants host dinner parties in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, featuring last night's banter, sports day-themed entertainment and a starter of squirrel that causes a stir.

9.00 The Thelma's Gypsy Girls. The pressure of getting her trainees up to speed for the Thelma Madine to take time off work. However, chaos ensues in her absence and a lie that could destroy the scheme is exposed.

10.00 Film: Role Models. (2008) After a brush with the law, two irresponsible men have to look after troubled kids as community service. Comedy, with Paul Rudd, Sean William Scott and Christopher Mintz-Plasse.

11.55 Film: Internal Affairs. (1990) Crime thriller, starring Richard Gere, Andy Garcia and Laurie Metcalf.

2.00 A Family Portrait. (R) **2.05** Camelot. (R) **3.00** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.10** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 – David Clarke Pt III. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fiti and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.35** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Monkey Life. (R) **10.25** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **11.25** Big Brother. (R) **12.25** Film: Krull. (1983) **2.55** Film: Clash of the Titans. (1981) **5.15** Film: Pocahontas. (1995)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the fourth day of the First Test at the Oval, as the three-match series continued.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Emma races to find Mary Margaret before Regina discovers she is missing – but is taken hostage by a man desperate to return to the land of fairy tales.

9.00 Big Brother. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Film: Blood Work. (2002) Crime thriller, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood.

12.00 World's Fastest Train. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **4.05** Sons of Anarchy. **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Olympics: Most Amazing Moments. **9.00** Girl Power: Going for Gold. **10.00** Family Guy. **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Snog, Marry, Avoid?

BBC Four
7.00 London: A Tale of Two Cities with Dan Cruickshank. **8.00** The Bridges That Built London with Dan Cruickshank. **9.00** Film: Amadeus: The Director's Cut (1984) **11.50** Teenage Kicks: The Search for Sophistication

ITV2
3.25 Film: Cool Runnings (1993)

5.25 Film: King Kong (2005) **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Film: Bridget Jones's Diary (2001)

ITV3
3.40 Film: Jesus Christ Superstar (1973) **5.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** A Touch of Frost **11.10** Wire in the Blood

ITV4
2.00 Live Cycling: Tour de France. **5.00** Minder **6.00** The Sweeney **7.00** Cycling: Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Premiership Rugby Sevens Series **9.00** Film: Crocodile Dundee (1984) **11.20** Film: Balls of Fury (2007)

E4
3.10 Glee **4.10** New Girl **4.40** Suburgatory **5.10** The Big Bang Theory **6.05** Revenge **7.05** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **10.10** Film: Sleeping with the Enemy (1991)

Film4
2.20 The Last Mimzy (2007) **5.15** Brief Encounter (1945) **7.00** Joe Wright on David Lean **7.05** Anna Karenina Clip Exclusive **7.15** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) **9.00** The Hunt for Red October (1990) **11.40** Viva Rival (2010)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

The Woods, Channel 5, 10.55pm

A teenager is packed off to an isolated girls' boarding school by her neglectful parents. The troubled girl discovers a number of students have disappeared without trace, and as she investigates it becomes apparent something sinister is lurking in the nearby woodlands and preying on the pupils. Horror, starring Patricia Clarkson and Bruce Campbell. (2006)

A Running Jump, Channel 4, 11.05pm

A man's attempt to buy a second-hand car in London's East End becomes surprisingly complicated when he crosses paths with a selection of colourful characters, including a rogue trader and his unusual family. Mike Leigh's short comedy, commissioned for the London 2012 festival, starring Eddie Marsan. (2012)

TUESDAY

Green Street, ITV1, 10.50pm

An American journalism student moves to London to live with his sister after getting kicked out of Harvard. After attending a football match with his brother-in-law, he is so impressed by the banter and camaraderie of a bunch of hooligans known as the Green Street Elite, who pin their allegiance to West Ham United, that he decides to join them. Drama, starring Elijah Wood. (2005)



Green Street, Tuesday, ITV1, 10.50pm

WEDNESDAY

A Clockwork Orange, ITV1, 10.50pm

Sadistic young gang leader Alex leads a carefree life indulging his love of rape, violence and classical music. When he is finally arrested, he is subjected to a sinister form of aversion therapy that brainwashes him into being physically unable to use violence. Drama, starring Malcolm McDowell. (1971)

THURSDAY

Millions, BBC1, 11.35pm

A bag of stolen money falls from the sky, and wide-eyed youngster Damian thinks it is a gift from God. However, his level-headed brother realises they must race against time to spend the loot before the country switches to the Euro and a robber on their tail catches up with them. Comedy drama, starring Alex Etel. (2004)

FRIDAY

The Shipping News, BBC2, 11.10pm

A man struggling to rebuild his life after the death of his emotionally distant wife moves to a small town with his daughter and estranged aunt, where he undergoes a profound journey of self-discovery, finding support and comfort in the local community. Drama, starring Kevin Spacey and Julianne Moore. (2001)

Pick of the Week

London is on track for a fantastic event

If the comedian Bill Bailey is to be believed, the Olympics opening ceremony is going to be the most excruciating cringe-fest in our history. He foresees an "inflatable Churchill bobbing down the Thames" and a "huge animatronic Yorkshire pudding" in the middle of Wembley Stadium. And that's before the ribbon-cutting Boris Johnson is allowed access to scissors.

Go on, admit it, you wouldn't be surprised if those things were actually involved, would you? After all, we have no real idea what to expect when the eyes of the world turn upon us. All we can hope is that it isn't like our childhood backyard firework displays, when we got all worked up and excited, only for the rock to go "pfft" and then go out.

But let's not be cynical or pessimistic. Let's get enthusiastic. This could be the greatest show on earth, and given that Oscar-winner Danny Boyle is behind the whole thing, it will at least be ambitious and grand in scope.

All we really know is that his vision will be unlike anything we've ever seen before. For a start, the Olympic Stadium will be transformed into the "British countryside". A cast of 10,000 volunteers will help recreate country scenes, against a backdrop featuring farmyard animals and landmarks.

And the opening scene of the £27m ceremony will be called "Green and Pleasant", according to Boyle. He added the show would create "a picture of ourselves as a nation."

"The best way to tell that story is through working with real people," said Boyle, who has even reserved a role for NHS nurses in proceedings.

The set will feature meadows, fields and rivers, with families taking picnics, people playing sports on the village green and farmers tilling the soil.

Real farmyard animals will be grazing in the "countryside", with a menagerie of 70 sheep, 12 horses, three cows, two goats, 10 chickens, 10 ducks, nine geese and three sheepdogs.

One billion people worldwide are expected to watch the opening ceremony.

The world's largest "harmonically-tuned" bell, weighing 23 tonnes and measuring 2m tall x 3m wide, will ring inside the Stadium to start the Shakespeare-inspired spectacle, featuring 900 children from the six Games host boroughs.

We also know that the panorama also includes two mosh-pits, representing the Glastonbury festival and the Last Night of the Proms, while the music – if recent reports are to be believed – is an eclectic selection ranging from the Beatles to the Monty Python theme tune. Yep, there's that cringe factor rearing its head again!

The performance is followed by the athletes' parade, in which more than 200 countries are represented. Then the Queen will carry out the official opening, before the arrival of the Olympic flame, when the identity of the final torchbearer will be revealed.

On your marks, get set, go!



Sue Barker is among the presenters in Olympics 2012 Opening Ceremony, Friday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Absolutely Fabulous

BBC1, 9.30pm

Patsy and Edina are unlikely representatives for London 2012 – their idea of exercise is wielding another bottle of champagne. But as Joanna Lumley and Jennifer Saunders return for the last of three specials celebrating Ab Fab's 20th anniversary, it seems even chain-smoking, wine-swilling fashionistas aren't immune from Olympic fever. Admittedly, Eddy is a bit vague on when the Games actually start, but she's still managed to cash in by renting out her home to a Hollywood A-lister – which is all the more impressive given that she's still living there along with her mum (June Whitfield), Saffron (Julia Sawahla) and Bubble (Jane Horrocks).

TUESDAY

Jon Richardson: A Little Bit OCD

Channel 4, 10pm

Have you ever gone back to the house to double-check you really did lock the front door, and then joked it was down to your obsessive compulsive disorder? And if so, did you then wonder why this particular form of illness has somehow become a laughing matter? It's a subject that's been bothering Jon Richardson, who has mined his own quest for control and obsessive nature in his book, It's Not Me, It's You. But while some fans and armchair psychiatrists may have been quick to diagnose him with OCD, Richardson is keen to learn more about what the term actually means and why we feel comfortable bandying it around so casually.

Turn Back Time – The Family

BBC1, 9pm

They say that if you remember the Sixties, you probably weren't there. If you remember the Seventies, however, you probably see a trained counsellor once a week. In the last episode of the documentary-cum-reality show, Lisa Rhodes moves in with her two sons, joining the other parents for whom the 70s are all about nostalgia. As the families pull together as a community for the final decade, it's time for them to decide – when was the golden era for the family?

WEDNESDAY

Olympics 2012

BBC1, 3.30pm

Cardiff's Millennium Stadium is the setting for the first action of the Games, as Great Britain take on New Zealand in a Group E women's football clash. The sides are joined in the group by Cameroon and favourites to qualify Brazil, with the top two sides progressing to the quarter-finals, along with the two third-placed nations with the best records in the three groups. England manager Hope Powell was given the job of coaching Great Britain and she largely kept faith with the players she is most familiar with, selecting 16 English players alongside two Scots in her squad of 18, with Kelly Smith among those to be picked.

THURSDAY

The Big Sports Quiz – Boys v Girls

ITV1, 9pm

Previous episodes of The Big Quiz have seen the cast of Coronation Street battle their Emmerdale counterparts. Now it's time for sports personalities to take part. Two teams – captained by Paddy McGuinness and Charlotte Jackson (pictured) – will feature the likes of England goalkeeper Joe Hart, runner Kriss Akabusi, Olympic gold medalist Amy Hazel, swimmers Mark Foster and Karen Pickering, and heptathlete Louise Hazel. Physical and mental challenges abound – and there may be some dirty tricks along the way ... Stephen Mulhern hosts.

FRIDAY

Snowdonia – A Year in the Wild

BBC2, 9pm

It's Friday night. You've got options. Hit the pub? See a movie? Take the family bowling? No, you want to stay home and watch Snowdonia: A Year in the Wild. This is the first of three films exploring life in Britain's National Parks. It tells how Snowdonia in north Wales is a landscape formed by extinct volcanoes, and is home to creatures including otters, hen harriers and peregrine falcons. See – bet you didn't know that, did you? And if you did, you're probably not the sort of person with many options of a Friday night anyway. The programme explores the area over the course of a year through the eyes of people who live and work there.



The Big Sports Quiz – Boys v Girls, Thursday, ITV1, 9pm

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Located in a quiet cul-de-sac is this unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Large Living Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, One Single Bedroom, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Large Rear Garden, Ample Driveway Parking, Close to all local amenities

£500 PCM



HALESOWEN, SUNBURY ROAD

Being ideally located on a quiet cul-de-sac and within walking distance to local shops and bus routes to Halesowen and Stourbridge. Also within the catchment area for Windsor High School. Comprising of: One Double and One Single Bedroom, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway Parking.

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, VICTORIA COURT

A Two Bedroomed Second Floor Flat Having Accommodation Including Hall, Generous Lounge With Balcony Off, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom With Jacuzzi, Double Glazing And Storage Heating, Communal Gardens.

£495 PCM



UPPER GORNAL, TUDOR VALE

Unfurnished and mews house briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Two bedroom, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Parking Space

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, KING STREET

A very well presented top floor apartment in the centre of Old Hill, close to the local train station, and briefly comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, House Bathroom with Shower, A Very Large and Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Washing Machine, Allocated Parking

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, CODSALL ROAD

Located in a popular area, close to shops and local train station, is this unfurnished and well maintained semi detached house, comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Dining Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, House Bathroom with Shower, Garage and Driveway Parking, Large Rear Garden

£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, BRETT YOUNG CLOSE

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances, House Bathroom with Shower, Cozy Lounge, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating and One Allocated Parking Space.

£450 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Situated in a quiet location, within walking distance to Old Hill town and local train station is this unfurnished first floor flat, comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances, House Bathroom with Shower, Cozy Lounge, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating and One Allocated Parking Space.

£450 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ARCHER GARDENS

An unfurnished ground floor maisonette, located close to shops and amenities, briefly comprising of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space

£425 PCM



OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances, House Bathroom with Shower, Cozy Lounge, Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear, Unfurnished £400 for the 1st 6 months and £425 after

£400 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALESOWEN ROAD

This value for money part-furnished terraced house, close to Old Hill town and local train station, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms and One with Fitted Wardrobe, Gas Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, On Road Parking, NO REAR GARDEN

£400 PCM



HALESOWEN, PIPPIN AVENUE

Located on this popular development of Homer Hill, Located close to Cradley Heath train station, bus route to Halesowen and Merry Hill, Comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower. A property not to be missed

£395 PCM

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Extended dormer



Call Jon Stanier on 01384 77877 to arrange a viewing of this three-bed dormer in Woods Lane, Quarry Bank

THIS three-bedroom property in Woods Lane, Quarry Bank, is for sale priced at £149,950.

On the ground floor is an L-shaped reception hall, downstairs WC with wall mounted wash hand basin and toilet and extended lounge measuring 17ft by 13ft 10in and with a feature open fireplace.

There is also a separate dining room,

12ft 8in by 9ft 7in, bedroom three/study - 12ft 3in by 7ft 6in - and a fitted kitchen measuring 9ft 8in by 9ft with a range of base and eye level units with matching roll top work surfaces, single drainer stainless steel sink, electric cooker point and cooker hood.

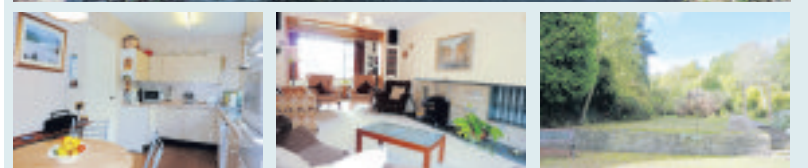
On the first floor are two bedrooms and a bathroom with panelled bath, inset wash hand basin in vanity unit, low level WC and electric shower in

separate cubicle. Outside there is a garage in the rear garden with rear vehicular access, with the garden having a paved patio, shaped lawn area, mature stocked flower borders garden shed, while to the front the property is set back from behind a fore-ground with driveway providing of road parking.

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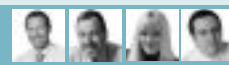
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Cavalier Drive, Halesowen



Detached house situated on a corner plot. Accommodation consists of ground floor - lounge, dining room, study, kitchen breakfast room, utility and wc, first floor - master bedroom with en suite, three further bedrooms and family bathroom. Outside offers rear garden to the side and rear of house, drive and double detached garage.

£300,000

Sheepfold Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £80,000

Two bedroom modern property, entrance lobby, lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, parking and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Cromwell Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £95,000

A three bedroom semi detached property, two reception rooms, kitchen, rear garden, double glazing and central heating. No upward chain.

Halesbury Court, Ombersley Road



£100,000

Two bedroom ground floor flat, security entrance, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, double glazing, warm air central heating, parking and garage. Part exchange considered.

Regis Road

Land for Sale adjacent to 5 Regis Road, Rowley Regis. Outline Planning for erection of new detached dwelling, planning ref. DC/10/52122. All enquiries 0121 427 5128

Guide Price £40,000
Rowley Regis

Beeches Road, Rowley Regis



£70,000

A deceptive three bedroom mid terrace property offering vacant possession, also benefits from two reception rooms, kitchen, wc and bathroom. Rear garden.

Pippin Avenue, Halesowen



Offers Over £70,000

One bedroom ground floor flat, lounge open plan to kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, double glazing, storage heaters, no upward chain, garage en-bloc and parking.

Grange Road, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £75,000

Extended semi detached house comprising lounge, kitchen breakfast room, downstairs bathroom, three bedrooms, off road parking and rear garden.

John Street, Rowley Regis



£108,000

Traditional end of terrace offering lounge, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. Master bedroom with en suite wc and two additional bedrooms. Rear garden with double gates allowing rear access

Pennicricket Lane, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £120,000

Three bedroom traditional semi detached property, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, first floor bathroom, central heating, driveway and rear garden, No upward chain.

Olive Hill Road, Halesowen



Well presented extended semi-detached property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Rear garden and driveway providing off road parking. Benefitting from central heating and double glazing

£140,000

Bournes Hill, Halesowen



Offers Over £140,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, entrance hallway, downstairs shower room, utility, reception room suitable for study/playroom or guest room, lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, first floor shower room, driveway, rear garden.

Crendon Road, Rowley Regis



£150,000

Three bedroom extended semi detached property comprising extended lounge, conservatory, kitchen, dining room, utility, bathroom, double glazing and central heating. Driveway and landscaped rear garden.

Shenstone Valley Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £150,000

Traditional semi detached house in cul-de-sac location. Comprising in brief lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, three bedrooms, separate wc, shower room and double glazing and central heating. No chain.

Colley Lane, Halesowen



Offers Over £160,000

Detached family home briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, downstairs toilet, three bedrooms and family bathroom. Driveway providing off road parking, garage and rear garden. Benefitting from central heating and double glazing.



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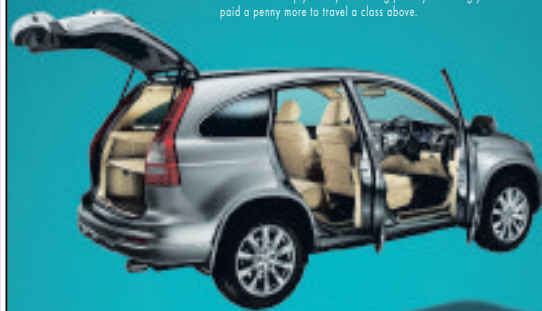
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Model shown: Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC ES Manual in Alabaster Silver Metallic at £14,200 including metallic paint. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Jazz and Jazz Hybrid registrations (excluding Jazz Si) from 2 July to 30 September 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. **Excess mileage charge:** 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. **On The Road price includes:** metallic paint. **Model shown:** CR-Z 2.0 i-VTEC EX Manual in Alabaster Silver Metallic at £26,020 On The Road including metallic paint and saving of £2,520 on retail On The Road price. **Terms & Conditions:** New retail CR-Z registrations from 2 July to 30 September 2012. Offers applicable at participating Dealers and are at the Promoter's absolute discretion. **Complimentary upgrade:** CR-ZX models available for the Road price of equivalent ES-1 model - discount of £2,520 inc VAT will be applied to retail invoice. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. **Excess mileage charge:** 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. **On The Road price includes:** metallic paint. **CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE.**

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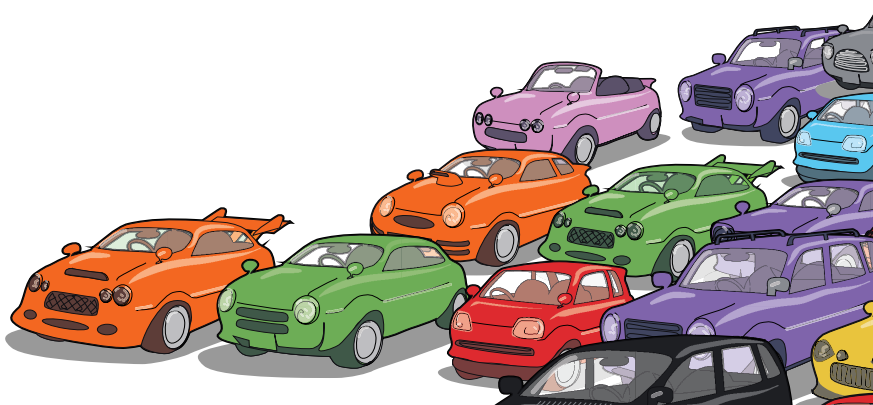
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2.2 injection, 2001, 12 months, 6 months tax, 43,000 miles, met silver, electric heated seats, six CD player, £5,700.
Call Steph on 07718 758362 or 0121 5022597

CHEVROLET MATIZ 58 reg, 1.0, SE, 5dr, blue, 16,000 miles, 2 owners (1 pre-owned by garage) fsh, 11 months MoT, 5 months tax, very good condition, £3,150.
0121 3535435 - 07976 203089

FORD FIESTA LX 1.25, 3 dr, 03, metallic, 60k, full MoT, immaculate, serviced, 2 owners, £1,850, 07884 375778 - 01902 897483

FORD GALAXY 1.8TDi Ghia, 2004, 65,000 genuine miles, fsh, tax and MoT, excellent condition, £5,350, 07976 337878

FORD MONDEO Ghia TDCi, 2005, 83k, black, MoT April 2013, tax October 2012, some history, £2,850 ono, 01743 248189

FORD MONDEO EDGE 2.0TDCi, 2007, 127k, long tax/MoT, new dual mass flywheel, fsh, immaculate condition, £2,700, 07531 433056

FORD MONDEO MINISTRAL, 2004, 51k miles, silver, MoT, one owner, tax, petrol, excellent condition, £1,700, 07968 726338.

HONDA ACCORD, 59 reg, 2.2 diesel, £5 GT, auto, immaculate condition, still under warranty, £12,000, 01952 401613.

HONDA JAZZ 2007, red, 57k miles, alloys, sunroof, full electrics, AC, tax, MoT, good condition, £5,295, 07824 64877.

HYUNDAI ACCENT 1.3 red, 04 Reg, 46,000 miles, 4 new tyres, 5 months tax, 12 months MoT, £1,600, 01902 742588.

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HYUNDAI GETZ 1.1 blue, 05 reg, tax Oct, MoT June 2013, FSH, excellent condition, £1,895 ono. 07814 583181.

KIA SPORTAGE 2.0XE, 2005, 57k miles, red, MoT tax, leather interior, petrol, excellent condition, £3,500 ono. 07968 726338.

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MAZDA RX8 231bhp, metallic grey, 54 plate, 75,000 miles, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, excellent condition. Genuine reason for sale.
£2,600 ono.
07964 381530.

MERCEDES A CLASS A150 Silver, 2005 (55), 87,000 miles, abs, electric windows, air bags, electric mirrors, a/c, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, c/p, pas, tax, AMG alloys, stereo, CD, petrol, non smoker, very reliable, sporty example of the A class.
£2,999
07982 079609 - 01952 461453

MERCEDES E200 Aventard FSO, full MoT auto, excellent, all electric leather seats, 02 reg, £2,260. 07751 178355.

MG R V8 ROADSTER 4L FUEL INJECTED 1995, green with new hood and £3k recently spent on major service, new veneer, all pipes and belts also replaced, tyres as new, full Tonneau, 14k miles. A real muscle head turning car with a Punch ester. The body was galvanised when built so totally rust free. Only 1800 ever built and very very few in the UK, an amazing car to drive.
£14,995.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 59 reg, 25,000 miles, 3 door, metallic silver, air conditioned, electric windows, alloys, central locking, pas, abs, CD, full service history. Manufacturers Warranty.
£5,900. 01902 896592.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8LS 2004, 53k, tax Oct, MoT Mar, FSH, good runner, excellent car. £1,800 ono. 07961 059484.

VW GOLF 1.4 petrol, black, 02 reg, 75k, CD, serviced, tax/MoT September, £1,800. Stourbridge 01384 374240.

VW GOLF 1500hp GT TDI diesel, 2003, 3dr, 10 months MoT, tax, recent service and cam belt, VGC £4,150 ono. 07802 747262.

VW GOLF 5dr hatch, 1.4 petrol, 53 plate, red, 1 previous owner, all electric, 38,500 miles, f.s.h. alloys, hands free, parrot fitted, MoT and taxed January 2013, excellent condition.
£3,895.
01543 270909 / 07759 096555.

VW GOLF TDI 165, 2002, hatchback, 5 door, manual, diesel, black, alloys, 157,000 miles, £2,099. 07814 617814.

VW GOLF TDI MATCH, 1.9 03 reg, dark blue metallic, 74k, recent service, 7 months tax, 3 months MoT, good condition.
£3,500 ono.
07973 793931.

MITSUBISHI COLT 5dr hatchback, diesel, 1.4, 07 Reg, 19,000 miles, £3,000. 0121 5857191.

NISSAN MICRA 1200 S, 04 reg, red, 61,000 miles, MoT, history, PAS, lovely condition, drives superb £1,850. 07523 729551.

NISSAN XTRAIL Columbia, 2006, black, 68k, sat nav, FSH, EW, AC, tax, MoT Sept, excellent condition £6,700 ono. 07929 946266.

PEUGEOT 206 SPORT, 1360cc, silver, 2005, MoT Feb, recent service, 62,000 miles, very good condition, £2,495. 01746 760307.

PEUGEOT 207 M Play, 08 reg, 3dr hatch, petrol, 1.3, silver, MoT April 2013, tax end 2012, 48,000 miles, £4,300. 01299 250331.

PEUGEOT 307 cc red, 54 reg, 49k miles, tax/MoT Jan 2013, very nice condition, lady owner, £3,995 ono. 01962 863135.

FIAT CRUISER 2.0 S, 83, rare red, full MoT, low miles, a/c, full electrics, excellent condition inside and out, £1,650. 07535 946489.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Dynamique, 05 54 plate, red, 70k, fsh, sporty add ons, new brakes, MoT Jan 13, £2,000 ono. 07790 876144.

RENAULT CLIO Dynamique, 16v, 1149cc, 55 reg, 54,500 miles, silver, abs, alarm, MoT, pas, sunroof, tax, alloys, £2,000. 07879 403302 or 01384 892725.

RENAULT SCENIC Dynamique DCI 120 diesel, 54 reg, 94,000 miles, silver, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, pas, tax, alloys, £2,000. 07879 403302 or 01384 892725.

SKODA FABIA 1.2, 55 reg, 4-dr, FSH, A/C, Tax, MoT New tyres, £2,600. 01384 835990 after 6pm.

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 4X4, 2000, vgc, 90,000 miles, blue/silver, long MoT, clean and low miles for year. £1,950 ono. 07737 884891.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.2 CABRIOLET, 33 plate, 70K, CD, ABS, cruise control etc. MoT April 2013. £2,695. o.n.o. 01746 710440.

IMMACULATE

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 59 reg, 25,000 miles, 3 door, metallic silver, air conditioned, electric windows, alloys, central locking, pas, abs, CD, full service history. Manufacturers Warranty.
£5,900. 01902 896592.

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VW GOLF 1.4 petrol, black, 02 reg, 75k, CD, serviced, tax/MoT September, £1,800. Stourbridge 01384 374240.

VW GOLF 1500hp GT TDI diesel, 2003, 3dr, 10 months MoT, tax, recent service and cam belt, VGC £4,150 ono. 07802 747262.

VW GOLF 5dr hatch, 1.4 petrol, 53 plate, red, 1 previous owner, all electric, 38,500 miles, f.s.h. alloys, hands free, parrot fitted, MoT and taxed January 2013, excellent condition.
£3,895.
01543 270909 / 07759 096555.

VW GOLF TDI 165, 2002, hatchback, 5 door, manual, diesel, black, alloys, 157,000 miles, £2,099. 07814 617814.

VW GOLF TDI MATCH, 1.9 03 reg, dark blue metallic, 74k, recent service, 7 months tax, 3 months MoT, good condition.
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VW GOLF TDI MATCH, 1.9 03 reg, dark blue metallic, 74k, recent service, 7 months tax, 3 months MoT, good condition.
£3,500 ono.
07973 793931.

VW PASSAT ESTATE 1.9 TDI (130) HIGHLINE One lady owner driver from new, full leather, reversing sensors, climate control, 8 airbags, Full VW service history, New Michelin energy saver tyres. All in immaculate working order.
£3,995 ono.
07909 994373.

NISSAN MICRA TEMPEST 2002, 50,000 miles, silver, fsh, alarm, 11 MoT MoT metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas, sunroof, stereo, CD, towbar, petrol, immaculate condition, ideal 1st car, first to see will buy.
£1,499 ono.
01384 401113.

PEUGEOT 607, blue, good condition, new cambelt, 145,000 miles, MoT March 2012. £1,485 ono. 01902 219286 or 07951 472953.

PUNTO 1.2, 2002, £895, Micra 1.0, 1998, £595. Both 10 months MoT, tax November, 07929 345915.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 16V Dynamique, 2001, met sky blue, full MoT alloys, fsh, 1 owner, lots of extras, £895. 07592 112784.

RENAULT LAGUNA 1.9DTI 2000(W), 5 door hatchback, 141,500 miles, grey metallic, 12 months MoT, Good solid reliable runner. £600. 01952 641921.

RENAULT MEGANE 2.0 KARMAN CABRIOLET 2000, 6 months Tax, 8 months MoT, metallic blue, Power hood, leather interior, Very good condition.
£1,350.
0121 5223150 or 075133 69167.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4, 52 plate, Tax till October, MoT till May 2013, 76,000 miles, Good condition £1,395. 07941 873154.

RENAULT SCENIC ALIZE 1.6 Hatch, Y reg, very good condition new clutch fitted, Good, reliable motor. £1,250. ono. 07577 994561.

ROVER MGF, 1997, British Racing Green, Kidderminster, £850 ono. 07914 512156.

SUZUKI IGNIS 03 plate, black, 1.3, petrol, 11.5 months MoT, 69,500 miles, £925 ono. 07977 945461.

TOYOTA COROLLA Solair SE 1332cc, red, P reg, full MoT, good condition, £450. 07905 045431.

TOYOTA YARIS 998cc, 2001, tax and MoT, 3dr hatchback, 55,000 miles, 2 lady owners, £1,485 ono. 07980 147685.

VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE 1.6, 1998, S reg, eight months MoT, clean car, £595 o.n.o. 07903 226347.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 12v Club, W reg, clean car 3-dr, 2 owners, manual, petrol, yellow, MoT May 13, tax Oct 12, £795. 07795 246808.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2L, 1996, blue, 5 months MoT, 4 months tax, low mileage, £350 o.n.o. 01902 569462.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2002, black, 1200cc, tax and MoT, alloys, £1,540 ono. 01902 750182 or 07960 866198.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8LS, 16v, 2003, 83k, blue, air bag, alarm, met paint, tax Oct, alloys, MoT Apr, £1,200 ono. 07749 940810.

VW GOLF 1.6S MK4, 1990, T reg, navy blue, 5dr, approx 123,000 miles Tax till end of Oct 2012, MoT Jan 2013. £950. 07907 704925

WOLVERHAMPTON

MGF convertible 1998, Silver, 12 months MoT, good condition. £950 ono. 07983 174678. Wolverhampton

NISSAN ALMERA N982 TPB 1.4, 5dr, blue, MoT April 2013, 6 mths Tax, 1 owner, good condition, 93,000 miles. £450. 07905 045431.

NISSAN MICRA TEMPEST 2002, 50,000 miles, silver, fsh, alarm, 11 MoT MoT metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas, sunroof, stereo, CD, towbar, petrol, immaculate condition, ideal 1st car, first to see will buy.
£1,499 ono.
01384 401113.

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£1,499 ono.
01384 401113.

Haseley's double fires Yeltz to victory

BEN HASELEY netted his first goals in pre-season for Halesowen as they came from behind to win their warm-up clash at Bromsgrove Sporting.

Haseley's first-half double turned the tables on their hosts and gave the Yeltz the lead going into the break at the Victoria Ground on Tuesday night.

Strike partner Dan Evans sealed the win for the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League Division One South side with a strike in the second-half.

Evans, Simon Flower, Scott Embrey, Joel Powell, Reece Cotterill, Chris Seekins and Warren Brookes all came on for the Yeltz after half-time.

On Saturday, the fight went out of Halesowen after they conceded two late first-half goals in a 4-0 defeat to Redditch United.

The teams will meet again at Redditch in the first qualifying round of the FA Cup on Saturday, September 8 and the Yeltz will hope to avoid a repeat.

Jordan Nadat was the thorn in the Yeltz's side and he was involved in both goals for the Evo-Stik Southern Premier League visitors before the break.

The striker scrambled home a 38th-minute opener before setting up ex-Yeltz frontman Mark Danks.

Nadat headed his second two minutes into the second period. Leon Brown wrapped up the scoring on 54 minutes for a Redditch side that included ex-Yeltz players Asa Charlton and Liam McDonald.

Squash aces heading for Birmingham

THE 2012 World Masters Squash Championships are taking place in Birmingham.

More than 750 players from 46 countries will take part in the event at the new Bramall Auditorium at the University of Birmingham between tomorrow and July 27. World No.1, England's James Willstrop, will be playing in a special exhibition match to warm up the state-of-the-art court on Saturday.

Edgbaston Priory Club, West Warwickshire Sports Club and Solihull Arden Club also host matches throughout the week.

Baggie boys having a ball with Lambert

by Steve Madeley

NEW Albion boss Steve Clarke is starting to put his own stamp on the squad he inherited from Roy Hodgson.

As his players go about their training duties on the pre-season tour of Sweden, they are learning more about the vision Hodgson's successor has for building on the former gaffer's impressive groundwork.

And one of Clarke's staff members believes the squad will have noticed subtle changes already, a week-and-a-half after linking up with the new head coach, and saw how he favours a

football-based approach as opposed to the traditional pre-season running sessions.

"He has put his own stamp on things and tweaked them, but he was happy with what was in place already," revealed Matt Green, the fitness coach charged with knocking Clarke's men into shape.

"He definitely leans towards football-based sessions, whether it's him delivering football sessions that are tailored to help fitness, or me doing running-related conditioning work that involve the ball."

"He is keen for the balls to be

used. It is a multi-factor approach, so they don't just become better athletes and improve physically – there is always a football involved in there so they are improving as footballers.

"The main thing that has jumped out is that a lot of the work that's been delivered is high-tempo, short and sharp work in small areas."

"There is quite a lot of emphasis on keeping the ball in small areas and that means a lot of accelera-

tions and decelerations at high-intensity.

"That is a bit different to a lot of the work that we saw under the old manager."

One obvious effect of Clarke's adjustments has already been felt by his players, who were working overtime during the opening week of their pre-season programme, carried out at the training ground near Walsall last week.

A regular 10am session was followed by a lengthy siesta in a nearby hotel, followed by a second stint on the training field at 5pm. It is the kind of timetable used

regularly on pre-season trips like the one that began in Malmo on Monday.

But replicating the 'tour' schedule at home is a new development and a Clarke initiative.

"The hotel is the manager's idea," confirmed Green.

"A lot of clubs up and down the country are doing double-sessions, and if you're going to deliver them it should be in the form that we're doing it with a big gap in between and plenty of recovery to make sure in the second session you get the players starting fresh so you get the same sort of quality."

Heathens march on as Saints are hammered

DUDLEY HEATHENS powered to yet another convincing home win – this time overcoming Scunthorpe Saints by a 58-33 scoreline to return to the top of the National League table.

In front of another bumper 'Monmore Wood' crowd, Heathens raced into an early lead, striking 5-1s in each of the opening four races.

The visitors did hit back with an 8-1 in heat five when Byron Bekker fell, but they were never able to recover from their sluggish start.

Dudley punished their opponents for a string of mistakes – extending their advantage to a comprehensive 25 points by the time the meeting drew to a close.

South African Bekker top-scored with an impressive 13+1 total, which included a heat 15 appearance, while flying No.1 Adam Roynon romped to a 12-point maximum and broke his own National League track record in the process.

Ashley Morris came agonisingly close to a full house – being denied by a heat 15 fall as he was battling with the Saints' top man Steve Worrall.

But it was reserve Darryl Ritchings who bagged the

Dudley Heathens

rider of the night award after his contribution of 10+2.

Team coach Jan O Pedersen was delighted with the performance and said: "It was an absolutely fantastic win, and all the boys did really well, even without Tom Perry."

"We still had a high score, a couple of the boys were a little rusty because we haven't been riding for so long, but all in all it was a fantastic performance."

Dudley: Byron Bekker 13+1, Adam Roynon 12, Ashley Morris 11+1, Darryl Ritchings 10+2, Dan Greenwood 6+3, James White-Williams 6+1, Tom Perry R/R.

Scunthorpe: Steve Worrall 14+1, Oliver Greenwood 6+1, Max Clegg 4+1, Danny Phillips 3+1, Tommy Fenwick 3+1, Tom Young 3, Gary Irving R/R.

National League standings

	M	3W	2W	D	L	4W	3W	D	1L	L	F	A	Pts
Dudley	7	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	404	230	23
Mildenhall	6	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	329	213	21
Stoke	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	304	247	13
Isle of Wight	7	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	310	334	12
Rye House	7	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	295	344	6
Buxton	8	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	317	408	6
Scunthorpe	7	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	269	357	5
King's Lynn	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	223	318	1



Darryl Ritchings leads his Heathens team-mate Dan Greenwood



Dudley's Darryl Ritchings, left, and Adam Roynon celebrate a heat win



Dudley's Ashley Morris pulls a wheelie after racing home first in heat four

Football club lend support to cause

HALESOWEN TOWN FC are supporting Halesowen Cricket Club's sixth annual Paul McCann memorial match.

The Yeltz will be donating a signed football and two match tickets to the auction to help raise some money.

The all-day event on Sunday sees a Halesowen XI take on the Royal Navy cricket team and is being held in honour of local sailor Paul McCann, who died in a submarine accident in 2007.

All proceeds go towards the Paul McCann Fund For Needy Children which donates cash to good causes in the Black Country.

The action at Halesowen's Somers Park ground starts at 8.30am when Paul's friends will hold their own annual charity cricket match.

There will also be a fancy dress charity Zumbathon from 11.45am to 1.15pm, a barbecue, children's entertainment and music throughout the day.

The main event will begin at 1.30pm as the Royal Navy cricket team will try and win back the Paul McCann Trophy which Halesowen XI won last year.

Gates open at 11.30am. Admission is free but donations will be accepted.

For more information visit <http://www.halesowen-cricketclub.co.uk/> or <http://www.fundforneedy-children.com/>

Halesowen ease to win

HALESOWEN beat the weather and Cannonk in Division Two of the Birmingham League.

Halesowen made 208-8 in 51 overs with Charlie Tromans hitting 43.

An impressive bowling and fielding display then saw Cannonk rolled out for just 77 in reply.

Phil Croft led the way with 3-34 with Eddie Rhodes, Matt Jeavons and Asif Khan all bagging two wickets each.

Stourbridge had to be content with a losing draw against Aston Manor in Division Three.

Stourbridge posted 165-9 against Aston Manor, with Richard Bradley top scoring with 57.

Manor finished on 158-6. Mikesh Patel took 3-36 for Stourbridge.



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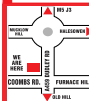
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Yeltz will kick off against Sports

HALESOWEN will kick-off their first-ever season in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League Division One South at home to relegated Mick-leover Sports.

Sports, who have come down from the Evo-Stik's top tier, will be the visitors to The Grove when the new campaign begins on Saturday, August 18.

The Yeltz have just switched leagues from the Evo-Stik Southern League Division One South & West and were a staple of the Southern divisions.

The big Boxing Day matches see Halesowen, managed by former Albion midfielder Shaun Cunnington, make the short trip across the West Midlands to tackle Sutton Coldfield Town.

The Yeltz lock horns with Chasetown, who dropped from the Evo-Stik Premier Division, on New Year's Day at The Grove, in what will be the first-ever league game between the clubs.

On the final day of the season, Saturday, April 27, Halesowen finish their campaign with a home game against Lincoln United.

Halesowen fixtures

August		
18	Mickleover Sports	H
21	Market Drayton Town	A
25	FA Cup Prelim	
27	Sutton Coldfield Town	H
31	Carlton Town	A
September		
04	Coventry Town	H
08	FA Cup 1Q	
15	FA Trophy Prelim	
22	Brigg Town FA Cup 2Q	
24	Romulus	A
29	FA Trophy 1Q	
October		
06	Sheffield FC FA Cup 3Q	H
09	Kidsgrove Athletic	H
13	Stamford	A
15	Gresley FC	A
20	R'worth MW FA Cup 4Q	A
23	Leek Town	H
27	L'borough D FA Trophy 2Q A	
30	Newcastle Town	H
November		
03	Kings Lynn Town FA Cup 1 A	
10	Hucknall FA Trophy 3Q	H
17	Lincoln United	A
24	N'wich Vic FA Trophy 1	H
December		
01	Belper Town FA Cup 2	A
08	Market Drayton Town	H
15	Mickleover S FA Trophy 2	A
22	Carlton Town	H
26	Sutton Coldfield Town	A
29	Coventry Town	A
2013		
January		
01	Chasetown	H
05	Romulus	A
12	Sheffield FC	A
19	Stamford	H
26	Kidsgrove Athletic	A
February		
02	Rainworth MW	A
09	Gresley FC	H
16	Leek Town	A
23	League Cup QF	
March		
02	Loughborough Dynamo	H
09	Northwich Victoria	A
16	Belper Town	H
23	League Cup Semi-Finals	
30	Brigg Town	H
April		
01	Chasetown	A
06	Newcastle Town	A
13	Kings Lynn Town	H
20	Hucknall Town	A
27	Lincoln United	H

New date set after Hammer washout

DUDLEY HEATHENS have moved quickly to re-arrange their prestigious individual event for Tuesday, July 31.

The F.A.S.T Golden Hammer was washed out last week but thanks to the co-operation of Wolverhampton landlords Ladbroke's and promoter Chris Van Straaten a new date has been agreed.

And the line-up is expected to only show one change as Rob Branford will be in action for Buxton at the Isle of Wight.

Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We are absolutely delighted to get a new date so quickly and we must offer our sincere thanks to Ladbroke's and Chris Van

by Tim Hamblin

Straaten. "We were all desperately disappointed to lose the meeting last week but this means we are ready to go again quickly."

"The British Final is to be staged the night before on the same track and we will look at incentives for fans to attend both meetings."

"We also want to encourage plenty of children as it's the start of the school summer holidays."

"We had fantastic local publicity for the event and now we need to gather that momentum once again. It's sure to be a

great night and naturally we would love to see a Heathens winner!"

Heathens have agreed to go to Stoke this Saturday in a re-arranged National League clash when they will be without Adam Roynon and Ashley Morris.

Steve Worrall of Scunthorpe deputises as a guest for Roynon and Morris will be covered by the rider replacement facility.

They head to the Isle of Wight next Tuesday in more league action and on Sunday at 4.30pm Tom Perry and Byron Bekker represent the club at the National League Pairs Championship at Mildenhall.

Meanwhile, the club have confirmed a

limited number of tickets for the evening with Cradley legend Erik Gundersen will be available to purchase on the door tomorrow night (Friday) on a first come, first served basis.

The event is to be held at the Venue Conference and Banqueting Suite, High Street, Dudley, and the action starts at 8pm.

A full colour 40-page brochure commemorating Gundersen's career will be launched on the night.

There will also be an auction which will include a replica 1983 Cradley race jacket with Gundersen's name on the back and a 2012 Dudley race jacket signed by the team.

Baggies move to cut cost of tickets

ALBION are offering cut-price Premier League action this season.

The Baggies have cut matchday admission prices for next season with 11 of their top flight games costing £25 for adults.

Admission to the 'category B' matches against Everton, Reading, QPR, Southampton, Stoke, West Ham, Norwich, Fulham, Sunderland, Swansea and Wigan will cost £25 compared to just six games at that rate last season.

Adults will pay £39 to see the 'category A' home games against Liverpool, Manchester City, Chelsea, Villa, Tottenham, Arsenal, Newcastle and Manchester United.

Last season the Baggies priced three games at £42, six at £40 and four at £29 but they have opted for just two price categories this term.

Chief executive Mark Jenkins said: "The most cost-effective way to watch the team is buying a season ticket, but we've made our match prices as accessible as possible for supporters who are unable to commit to attending every game."

"Not only have we reduced match prices, we've also expanded the younger age brackets to hopefully attract more young fans and families to our home matches."

Category A games will cost £29 for pensioners, £25 for under-21s and students and £15 for under-17s. Category B games have been priced £20 for pensioners, £15 for under-21s and students and £10 for under-17s.

News of the matchday price reduction follows the Baggies' decision to slash season ticket prices for the new season.

The move is designed to boost attendances and increase demand for seats ahead of the proposed expansion of The Hawthorns.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, July 19, 2012.

ALBION IN FIGHT TO KEEP STRIKER

ALBION are braced for their latest battle to keep striker Peter Odemwingie at The Hawthorns.

The Baggies have rejected a bid from money-rich Qatari club Al-Gharafa for the 30-year-old Nigeria international and dismissed suggestions of a training ground bust-up with new boss Steve Clarke as "utter nonsense".

But news of a definite interest from the Middle East in the Baggies hitman could signal the start of another summer-long transfer saga involving the club's No.1 forward.

Early indications of interest from Al-Gharafa came on Tuesday with reports claiming Odemwingie could be on his way to Qatar following a fall-out with head coach Clarke.

And while the club dismissed suggestions of a row between boss and star player as "without foundation", the stories were followed up within hours by a firm offer from Al-Gharafa which was immediately kicked into touch.

Albion, who are on tour in Sweden, are determined to keep the former Lokomotiv Moscow man, who signed a new three-year contract last season following a summer of speculation about a possible departure.

But they will be conscious that, while Odemwingie is happy in the Midlands after marrying his English girlfriend in the summer, the lure of a major payday in the final years of his career could prove tempting for the striker, who is the first Albion man to bag 25 Premier League goals.

Simon Cox is also attracting interest from a host of clubs including Champi-

by Steve Madeley in Sweden

onship outfits Blackburn and Middlesbrough.

The Baggies have fielded enquiries about the Ireland international and are now expecting firm bids to follow.

Clarke still hopes to have Argentina international midfielder Claudio Jacob on board by the end of the 10-day Swedish trip.

The Baggies have made the 24-year-old free agent their No.1 midfield target and he has been in England for a tour of the training ground and to hold talks over a contract.

Meanwhile, Zoltan Gera is continuing his bid for full fitness on the training field in Sweden.

The Hungary international is aiming to be fit for the start of the Premier League season after playing just three games for the Baggies last term because of injury.

Albion have indicated their intention to step up Gera's rehabilitation and have not ruled out the possibility of the 33-year-old, who missed the final six months of last season with a ruptured cruciate ligament, playing some part in their friendlies against Malmö FF tonight or FC Copenhagen next Wednesday.

Hawthorns men hit the ground running



Best foot forward - Albion are put through their paces on the training ground at their base in Malmo, Sweden



Peter Odemwingie, above, takes a blow as Zoltan Gera, Chris Brunt, Jonas Olsson and Steven Reid train in Malmo



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